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for your home

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PRYKE
reveals
her home
secrets

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Bathrooms
Bedrooms

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Welcome

PHOTOGRAPH OLIVER GORDON



KEEPING FINGERS CROSSED that major building works will be finished by Christmas is a feeling that award-winning garden designer Dan Pearson knows only too well. Yet living on-site in a caravan during the renovation of his home hasn't fazed this quietly unconventional favourite from

this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Early tuition, from his textile designer mum, taught Dan the art of looking carefully at colour and composition. Combining form, texture and colour successfully is key to creating an interiors scheme – and is also the backbone of Dan's authentic wild garden designs. Find out more about this charming and gifted reluctant celebrity on p30.

Indigo blue, chocolate brown and charcoal grey are all making a big comeback this season. See how you can use them to produce a warm and inviting feel in your home in Warm and Wonderful on p78. And, if you want to go for the full dramatic impact, Dark Arts on p22 will inspire you with big, bold ideas for every room.

This month we're thrilled to be launching a new partnership with leading retailer Carpetright. Turn to p104 to see a small sample of the contemporary, quality designs we've developed with them, which are being used across rugs, carpets, vinyls, laminates and wooden flooring.

Yes, the Christmas season is fast creeping up on us... and we've helped you get ahead of the game with our fabulous Christmas Gift Guide, free with this issue. Choose from gorgeous gifts for the home and garden, as well as a special section on creative children's presents.

On a practical level, Christmas is a time to make more space for the extra visitors, presents and food that are part of the season. Storage, this month's HB Project on p123, provides essential advice on how to plan and what to buy to create additional storage and streamline your rooms in style.

Have a fun and organised month!

Julia

Julia Goodwin, Editor
Follow me on Twitter
@JuliaHouseBEEd



1

Favourite buys for November

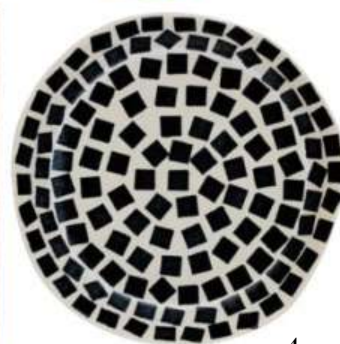
We're sold on this season's **SULTRY SHADES** and glamorous metallics



2



3



4



5

1 Harlequin's Lovers Knot 111229 **wallpaper**, £52 a roll, adds drama with its oversized leaves **2** Metallic accessories work their magic against deep colours. Ayasa **storage containers** by Tiipoi, £40 each, Such & Such **3** Splash rich hues

across your walls with **matt emulsion** from Dulux Colour Futures 16, £24.49 for 2.5L **4** The Thake **platter** (30.5cm dia), £25 from Habitat, has a bold hand-sponged cube design **5** Croft Collection Berwick Large **Sofa**, from £1,500, John Lewis

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

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Cover photo **Mark Scott**
Styling **Hannah Deacon**
Find out how to get our
cover look on p87

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available as a **digital
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*Our cover stories are
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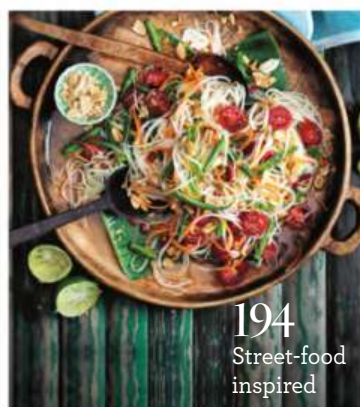
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Don't miss



FREE WITH THIS ISSUE

Find inspiration for your gift buying with this fantastic 32-page magazine



DFS SOFA NOW IN LEATHER!

Turn to p84 to see the Sophia in leather from the House Beautiful collection at DFS



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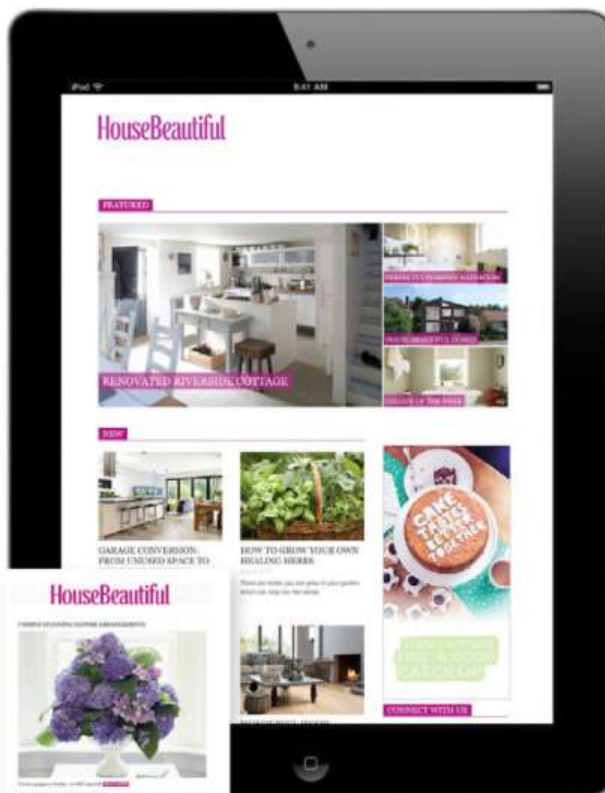
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STAR LETTER



FABULOUS FLOORS

We've had wooden floors in our cottage for years but I've always loved carpet. I almost didn't buy my current house because it had hardwood floors. I've decided it's time to carpet throughout and am spoilt for choice with the gorgeous ones featured in the September 2015 issue. I'm looking forward to feeling lovely soft pile beneath my feet again!

Lynn Yetton, Burwell, Cambridgeshire

Take a look at our new collection of carpets with Carpetright on page 104. Ed

PERFECT PRESENT

My niece Emily is a busy young mum who rarely relaxes or treats herself, so I decided to buy her a subscription to House Beautiful. Now when my copy falls on my doormat, I know Emily is getting hers too and it's her time to relax, and for the two of us, though miles apart, our time to turn the pages together.

Chris Lawrence, Shouldham, King's Lynn

WILD WALLPAPER

I'm at university and student accommodation can be dreary, but glancing through your October issue I fell in love with House of Hackney's Art Deco Menagerie wallpaper collection. I'm studying Wildlife Media so wallpaper featuring animals seems rather appropriate! With my landlord's approval, I'm ready to start decorating!

Abigail Harden, Botchergate, Carlisle

WOODEN WONDERS

I enjoyed learning more about people who make wood their business in *Inside Guide to The New Woodsmen* (October 2015). My father was a joiner and he made most of the furniture in our family home – he even made a set of show jumps! I'm definitely not a carpenter myself but – from the children's bunk beds to bookshelves and a coffee table – I've built a lot of the furniture in my own house and cut the cost of it in half. It's a wonderful skill to have.

Alan Jacobs, Helsby, Cheshire



MAKE IT COSY

My bedroom is in dire need of an overhaul so I was extremely grateful to come across the *Ultimate Guide to Bedroom Furniture* (HB Project, October 2015). A bedroom is the most intimate and personal space in a home and I want mine to reflect my tastes but also serve a practical purpose. With your range of recommendations and excellent advice, I feel I can't go wrong!

Suzanne Barr, St Helens, Merseyside

SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU

I'd like to thank Keiron and Jamie from Stairway Joinery in Poole. Our house was in desperate need of a new staircase and this was tricky for two reasons: space was tight and I'm really fussy! After a complete redesign, we now have a fabulous American white oak and glass staircase replacing a 1960s orange pine one. Stairway even managed to steal an extra 30cm at the bottom!

Vivien Lee, Corfe Castle, Dorset



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f From our Facebook page... Green is not my usual colour – love this though, says Gillian Wilson on our post about how to use shades of green

t From our Twitter feed... Interesting article on @V_Arbuthnott in October's @HB – fascinating reading about Vanessa & her designer daughters... @fawcett_angela

t From Julia... Enjoyed chatting to Head of Design Steven Rowe @Tesco Xmas show. Lovely detail on decs and crackers @JuliaHouseBED

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WHAT'S HOT

GLEAMING BEAUTY

Create a backdrop of a winter's forest with this lovely **Wilderness wallpaper**, £65 a roll, Ferm Living. Add a hint of soft metal and an industrial edge with this Madam Stoltz **copper stool**, £68, Miafleur



‘Team burnished copper and leather for a look that’s glitzy yet understated.’

KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES,
INTERIORS EDITOR

GOLDEN GLOW

Add warmth to your interiors with this glamorous tone



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9

1 For an on-trend seventies look, go for the **bucket chair**, £299, from BHS 2 Geometric patterns look superb embossed on this **copper bowl**, £40 for three, House of Fraser 3 Metallic accents in the kitchen bring an instant lift. Try copper **canisters**, £10 each, Tesco 4 Luxurious and chic, this Aran **cuffed carafe**, £28, and matching **glasses**, £16 each, all from Rowen & Wren, will add a touch of style to relaxed dining 5 Use this **Van Verre tray** in hand-beaten copper to serve drinks or add wow factor to a side table, £147.50, Amara 6 For the perfect combination of metal and wood, opt for this retro copper-plated **table lamp**, £175, Out There Interiors 7 Jot down shopping lists and decorating plans in tactile rustic **leather journals**, from £19.95, Nkuku 8 Keep your hallway table clear and tidy with this copper **letter rack**, £10, George Home 9 Show a softer side to metallics with the Copper Kaleido **cushion**, £36.50, House Envy

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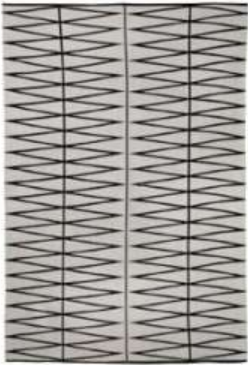
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DESIGN NEWS

Take your pick – from sophisticated wallpapers to a gleaming copper coffee set...

3 of the best...

RUGS



Diamond Print cotton rug in grey and black, £139, Bloomingville at Amara



Midnight Stripe cotton rug from Dash and Albert, available in five sizes, £32-£374



Kelim Black Lines is a traditional rug in a modern pattern, Future and Found, £89

BLUE BLOSSOMS

Influenced by long walks in the Cotswolds, Lorna Syson's new Bloom collection includes this Hydrangea wallpaper, £47 for a roll, and matching cushion, £52.



NEW LOOKS



OFF THE WALL

Fairy-tales and the faded grandeur of old castles inspired Mineheart's Almost White wallpaper collection; it's perfect as a subtle, yet dramatic backdrop. Designs include White Bookcase (above), Concrete Love Letter, and Delft Baroque, from £70 for 2.5m roll.

HOT PICKS



1 ROSY HUE

Wake up and smell the coffee in style with Tom Dixon's new Brew collection of copper coffee accessories. Cafetiere, £140; stove-top coffee maker, £125; set of four espresso cups, £95; biscuit tin, £85; milk pan, £80; and coffee caddy, £75.

2 ALL AGLOW

Brighten up tabletops with a colourful Eau Minerale



2

water glass. They're available in a range of pretty colours including Amber (above), Aqua, Smoked, Amethyst, or Green, and cost £8.95 each from Canvas Home at Selfridges.

3 HAPPY MEMORIES

Evoke nostalgic moments from childhood with Magpie's Modern Home collection, a distinctly old-fashioned range of tableware, tea towels and stationery featuring an



3

alphabetical compendium of 20th-century designs illustrated in a vintage screen-print style. Set of four side plates, £22.50, Magpie.

4 BRIGHT HIGHLIGHT

This glass bottle is part of a range that comes in punchy shades and an assortment of shapes to mix and match, from £29 from the new Mid-century collection at West Elm.



4

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BARGAIN NEWS

A round-up of the hottest homewares – all at great prices



CLASSIC DESIGN

Jasper Conran's debut furniture collection for Debenhams features Shaker-inspired pieces in neutral colours, including this tall boy chest, £660.

Other items in the Farringdon range include a dressing table, £570, and single oval pedestal mirror, £200



Treat yourself...

...to this cosy Natural Shetland Aysgarth pure woollen blanket in Charcoal, £75 from Bronte by Moon. It's also available in Beige and Mushroom.

WORDS JULIA EVANS

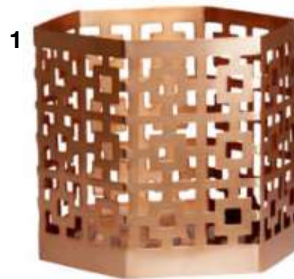


NEW IN

WINNING LOOKS

Go for gold with Royal Doulton's new Olio ceramic tableware, created by award-winning design duo Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, who created the London 2012 Olympic torch. Colours range from white and duck egg blue to red and black. Prices start at £10 for a plate or mug, up to £70 for a large serving bowl. The collection also includes wooden platters, £40, and trivets, £25 each.

ACCENT PIECES



1 SHINE A LIGHT

Mix and match pretty hexagonal metal tealight holders, £1.99 from H&M. Available in Bronze (shown above), Black, Silver, White, Turquoise or a Gold finish.

2 HIGHLIGHT A HUE

Add a zingy colour accent to rooms with this painted metal vase, which comes in Citrus



Green or Teal, £12.99 (medium), or £19.99 (large), from the Elements range, a new collection of bright, affordable home accessories from Dunelm. Elements will be seasonally updated and includes furniture.

3 SHADOWPLAY

Switch on the light with Habitat's April white etched metal pendant shade, £45,



3



4

which can also be used with table or floor lamp bases. It will look stunning in a room with painted white walls.

4 WISE GUYS

Bring a touch of fun to the dinner table with these kitsch but cute handpainted ceramic owl salt and pepper mills, £6, BHS. There's also a matching storage jar for £12.

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

FEAST AT YOUR LEISURE

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ON TREND



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NEW COUNTRY DESIGN

Mix classic furniture and prints with contemporary elements for a fresh rural style

1 House of Fraser's Pebble **dinnerware**, from its Gray & Willow range, would make a great dining table update, from £6 **2** Add a light touch with a **feather print cushion**, £60, from Stil Haven **3** With a handy drawer, this Skybox **side table**, £115, from Luma, is a smart and useful addition to a living room or bedroom **4** Choose modern checks featuring this season's accent colours such as in this Graphite **throw**, £79, Marks & Spencer **5** Pour the perfect cuppa with this gorgeous Maiko **teapot**, £36, Folklore **6** Add some interest to your mantle with an Antler **tealight holder**, £7, George Home **7** The elegant William **armchair** is shown here upholstered in Hamish but you can choose from 23 fabrics. From £650, Neptune **8** Get crafty and knock up some DIY curtains in this attractive Berridale Mustard **fabric**, £19.99 a metre, Dunelm **9** Opt for a classic design in an antique finish. This Orlando **lamp**, £35, Tesco, is a shining example



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DECO UPDATE



STYLING KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES. PHOTOGRAPHY RACHEL WHITTING

TEXTURED RUGS

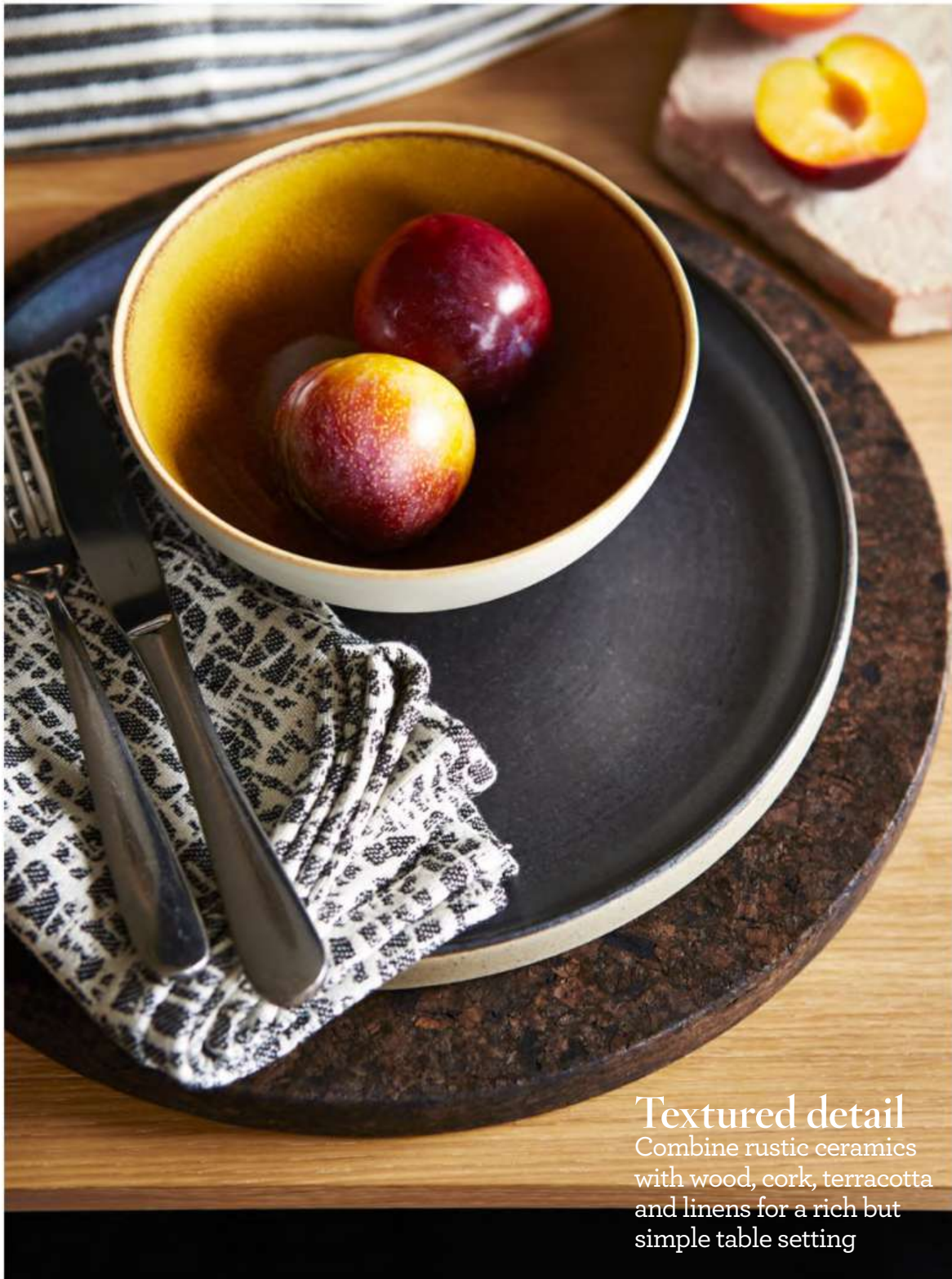
Update your floor with a woven rug to add an extra layer of warmth and texture

- 1** The **Gaia** is hand-plaited from natural plant fibres using traditional techniques, so it's heavy duty enough for hallways, £295 a sq metre, Flock
2 Walk barefoot comfortably on the soft **Bortollo** cream wool-blend rug (140cm x 200cm), £170, Habitat **3** Neutral with a hint of duck egg,
 Marks & Spencer's **Marlowe** (120cm x 170cm) is more than 60 per cent wool, £199 **4** From the **House Beautiful collection**, the Landscape
 rug (120cm x 170cm), £109 from Carpetright, is 100 per cent jute **5** This subtle **Chevron** jute rug (120cm x 180cm) would work well in a
 modern interior, £190, Heal's **6** John Lewis's 100 per cent wool **Saeby**, with its flecks of cream, straw and black, is a twist on a classic neutral
 rug, from £85 **7** Made from sustainable natural hemp, the **Camellia** (1.22m dia) has a seventies vibe, £195, Northwood **8** Broste's **Nor** design
 is compiled of woven leather and cotton; from £22 for a 60cm x 90cm rug. To see the House Beautiful collection at Carpetright, turn to p104

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

Dark arts

Moody greys and burnt orange tones create a warm and inviting home



Textured detail

Combine rustic ceramics with wood, cork, terracotta and linens for a rich but simple table setting

Light and shade CREATE AN INVITING DINING SPACE USING DEEP PAINT COLOURS ON THE WALLS. OFFSET WITH PARED-BACK WOODEN FURNITURE AND INTRODUCE A VIBRANT SPLASH WITH A SIMPLE PENDANT LIGHT, FOLIAGE AND BERRIES



CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Contemporary mix OFFSET A DARK WALL COLOUR WITH SUMPTUOUS TEXTURES. COMBINE A TRADITIONAL WOOL UPHOLSTERED SOFA WITH A STYLISTED CHAIR IN BURNISHED LEATHER. FRAMED PICTURES ADD A MODERN TOUCH

Layer up

Mix and match streamlined wooden furniture for a hallway that's both functional and beautiful. Add fun personal touches



CONTINUED OVER PAGE

Space to think USE A SUBTLE GREY COLOUR ON THE WALL TO CREATE A RELAXING SPACE THAT'S PERFECT FOR A STUDY. A NATURAL RUG, SIMPLE DAY BED AND VERSATILE FLOOR LAMP KEEP THINGS PRACTICAL AND UNCLUTTERED



Rich contrast

Distressed wood wallpaper lends a snug cabin feel – just add wool, fur, linen and velvet for a luxurious bedroom. To finish, display precious photos and postcards pinned to string



CONTINUED OVER PAGE

Where to buy everything



Textured detail

Boulder **napkin**, £60 for four, Tori Murphy. **Cutlery**, from £7.50 a piece, Another Country. Sinnerlig cork **pot stand** in Dark Brown or Natural, £9, Ikea. Basic **dinner plate**, £22, Folklore. Anais **bowl** in Caramel, £16, Ines Cole. Reclaimed hexagonal **terracotta tile**, £4.80, Bert & May

Light and shade

Walls for similar, try Charcoal paint matt emulsion, £34 for 2.5L, Neptune. Arran **rug**, £252 a sq m, Flock. Eugene **dining table**, £3,960, Pinch. **Chairs** (clockwise from left): Originals Holland Park chair, £420; Chiltern chair Natural, £199; All Purpose chair in Black, £340; All Purpose chair in Clear, £315; Originals Stacking chair in Black, £345; all Ercol. Loft **bookshelves**, £125, Rockett St George. Coolie **pendant light**, £38, Pooky. On table (l-r): Harbour Stripe **tablecloth**, £120, Tori Murphy. Anais **jug**, £26, Ines Cole. Basic **mug**, £16.50, Folklore. **Candles**, from £2.95 for two, Another Country. **Glass jar**, £50, Ines Cole. **Dinner plate**, as above. Chef's **board** (under bread), £85, Hampson Woods. Sinnerlig **bottle**, £6.50, Ikea. Allas **candleholder**, £25, Another Country. Terracotta **jug**, £55, Folklore. **Pot stand, dinner plate and bowl**, as above. **Apothecary bottle**, from £18, Home Barn. **Pot stand and plate**, as above. Anais **bowl** in Aubergine, £16, Ines Cole. On shelves (from top): Otta **bowls**, £17 each; Basic **breakfast cup**, £16.75; all Folklore. **Shaker box**, from £39.95, Selvedge. Vintage hemp **cover**, £150, Parna. **Checked sham**, £49, Lexington. Lifestyle **blanket** in English Mustard Fishbone, £60, The Tartan Blanket Co. On floor: Belly **basket** in Black, £25, Olli Ella



Contemporary mix

Clock, £35, Home Barn. **Pictures**: Whippet, £150; Two Women's Backs, £59; Aeroplane Spotter cards, £17 for 10; Routemaster Number, £10; Landscape With Trees, £45; all Pedlars. Ribba **frames**, from £2.25, Ikea. Hyacinth **rug**, £295 a sq m, Flock. Leather **chair**, £125, Rockett St George. Brunel Lean To **shelves**, £350, Heal's. Bluebell **sofa**, £1,540, sofa.com. **Side Table Two**, £555; **Coffee Table Two**, £645; Another Country. **Pouf**, £110, Cox & Cox. Jielde vintage **lamp**, for similar, try Pamono. On sofa: Glorious **velvet cushion**, £29; Albers **geometric cushion**, £85; Rockett St George. Harbour Stripe **cushion**, £65, Tori Murphy. **Throw**, £30, National Trust. **Red cushion**, £55, Melin Tregwynt. On chair: Glorious **velvet cushion**, as above. On shelves: **Photo holder**, £28, Ines Cole. **Shaker boxes**, as above. Vintage **pot**, £24, Home Barn. **Bobbin and string**, £11, Hen & Hammock. **Number 2**, £2.50, RE. On tables: **Glass jar**, £26, Ines Cole. **Breakfast cup**, as above. **Hurricane lamp**, £19, Hen & Hammock. **Dominoes**, £35, RE. **Apothecary jar**, £10; **coffee maker**, £26; Rockett St George

Layer up

Walls, as above. Calvin Klein Luster Wash **rug**, £599, WovenGround. Mano **cabinet**, £750, Habitat. **Side Bench Two**, £735, Another Country. **Peg rail**, £41, Scumble Goose. **Metal planter**, £35; **antlers**, £195; **enamel number**, £18; all Home Barn. **Seaweed** in frame, £18.50, RE. **Hat**, £64.95, Selvedge. **Bowl**, £16.95, Design Vintage. **Basket**, £16.50, Dee Puddy. On bench: **Throw**, £30, National Trust. **Bag**, £385, Anta. **Wellies**, £45, Hunter



Space to think

Walls, as above. Framed **print** by Stephen Millership, from £52, Art Rookie. Hyacinth **rug**, £295 a sq m, Flock. Sinnerlig **table top**, £85; **trestyle legs**, £25 each; **day bed**, £279; Ikea. Flow **chair**, £495, Ercol. Nyx **floor lamp**, £150, Habitat. Belly **basket**, £25, Olli Ella. On desk (l-r): Oak **archive tray**, £95, Present & Correct. **Pen pot**, £20, Another Country. **Apothecary bottle**, £20, Home Barn. Anais **mug**, £15, Ines Cole. **String**, £3.50, Hen & Hammock. **Letter W**, £2.50, RE. Drawing **hand**, £20; **desk caddy**, £69.50; Present & Correct. On sofa: Florence **cushions** in Fox, £50 each, Neptune. Vintage **linen**, from £16 a metre, Parna. On chair: Deckchair Stripe **scarf**, £131.95, Selvedge

Rich contrast

Walls in Scrapwood Wallpaper PHE-05 by Piet Hein Eek, £199 for a 9m roll, Rockett St George. Rati **rug** in Slate, £295 a sq m, Flock. **Sheepskin rug**, £300, Cox & Cox. Twig **cube**, £1,175; Imo folding **stool**, £295; Pinch. Coolie **pendant light**, £38, Pooky. On cube: **Pitcher**, £58, Another Country. French tableware **bowl** in Tangerine, £15, Toast. Retro **desk calendar**, £32.50, Present & Correct. Tromso flannel stripe double **duvet cover**, £80; **pillowcases**, £25 a pair, House of Fraser. Flannel **checked pillowcases**, £35 each, Lexington. Linus **orange throw**, £84, Heal's. Merino wool **geometric throw**, £85, National Trust. Cushions (from back): **Fringed cushion**, £327.95, Selvedge. Florence **cushions** in Fox, £50 each, Neptune. Bookstack **cushion**, £45, Folklore. Harbour Stripe brushed cotton **hot water bottle**, £40, Tori Murphy. Aeroplane **cards**, as above HB

STYLING HANNAH DEACON. PHOTOGRAPHY RACHEL WHITTING

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE WHERE TO BUY PAGE

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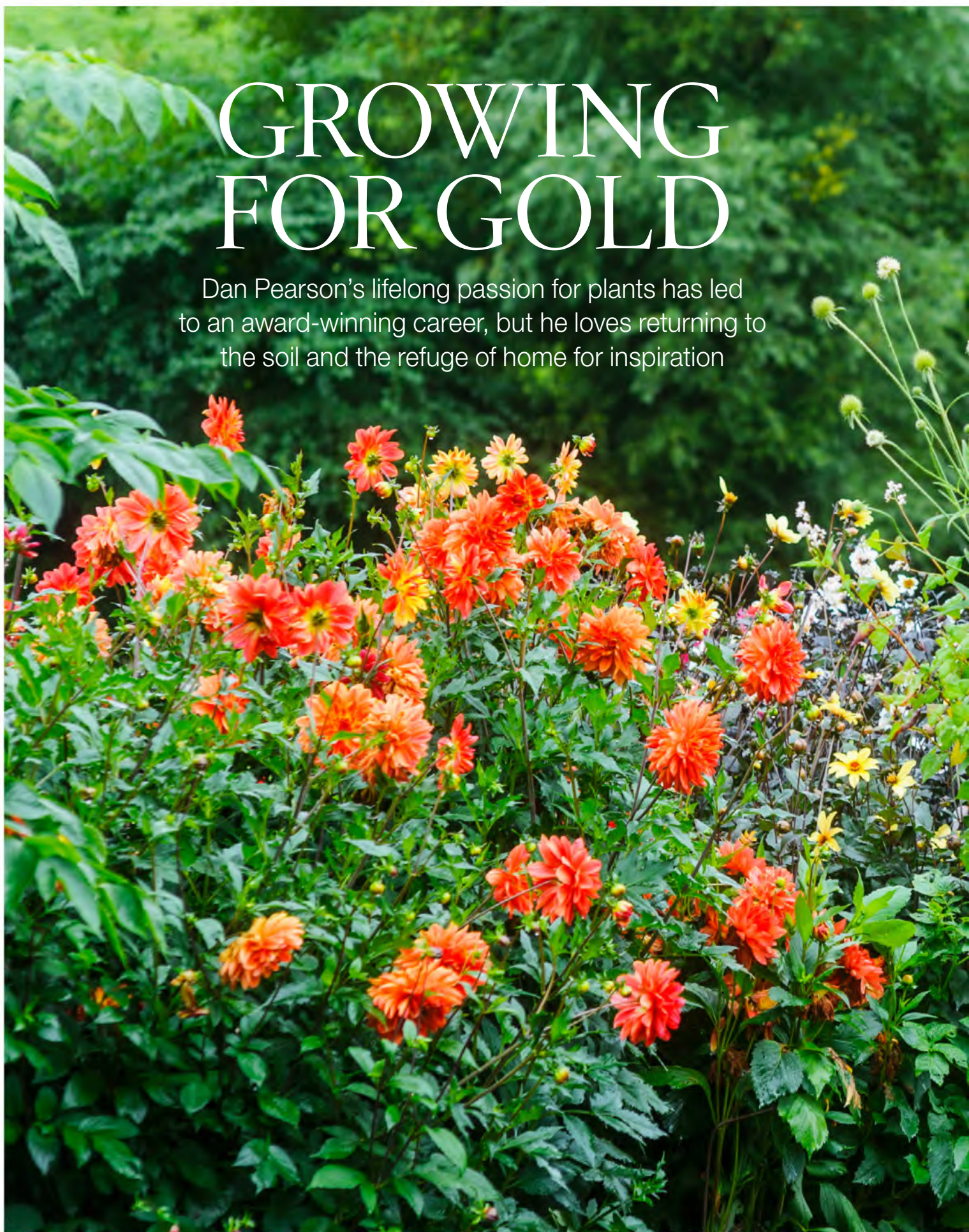
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GROWING FOR GOLD

Dan Pearson's lifelong passion for plants has led to an award-winning career, but he loves returning to the soil and the refuge of home for inspiration





Dan inherited an eye
for 'close observation,
colour and composition'
from his parents

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

In his element outdoors, Dan works his magic on some bush roses



Set on a south-facing slope, Dan and Huw's farm near Bath offers spectacular views

Earlier this year, when the weather was considerably warmer, Dan Pearson spent most of his weekends camping out on his 19-acre farm in Somerset, near Bath.

'We're having major building works done on the house, so we were living in a caravan on-site at weekends. We were so lucky with the summer weather that we were beginning to wonder whether we needed the house at all,' says the 51-year-old prize-winning garden designer. 'It's not quite finished yet but we're keeping our fingers crossed it will be in time for Christmas.'

In the midst of the construction, Dan was having a fruitful time in the garden. His modest, gentle manner and woodsman-chic appearance – he favours a predominantly olive and khaki wardrobe – belie his achievements, from designing gardens for Sir Jonathan Ive, Ivor Braka and Sir Paul Smith, among others, and lecturing all over the world, to being horticultural consultant for London's Garden Bridge and landing a gold medal at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

The medal was awarded for his stunning recreation of a hidden corner of the

estate at Chatsworth in Derbyshire. Quietly unconventional, Dan wowed everyone with his authentically wild garden, which, he says, began as 'a charming, intimate doodle' and included dozens of trees, thousands of weeds and wild flowers and 300 tons of Derbyshire rock, all of which were returned to Chatsworth after the show to be 'rehomed'.

Then in July, the National Trust appointed Dan as an honorary garden advisor to Sissinghurst Castle. In the great outdoors, his star has never been higher, which makes his choice of home all the more important as a refuge and place to recharge.

Dan and his partner Huw Morgan moved to the farm after selling their house in Peckham, south London, almost five years ago. Dan knew it was right as soon as he saw it, 'for its view up and down the valley', and has been careful about embarking on major changes too quickly, preferring to work out a scheme sensitive to its natural surroundings. Dan and Huw chose their friend, architect Adam Khan, to design the refurbishment.

'Inside it will be a calm, neutral space, making the most of the views. It will be eminently practical, and with natural

colours and textures inspired by my trips to Japan,' explains Dan.

Perched on a south-facing slope, the house is bathed in light from dawn until dusk, which is good for Dan, as he thinks he may suffer from seasonal affective disorder. 'I need to be working outside as much as possible, as the light, even in winter, gives me much more energy than if I'm indoors all day,' he says.

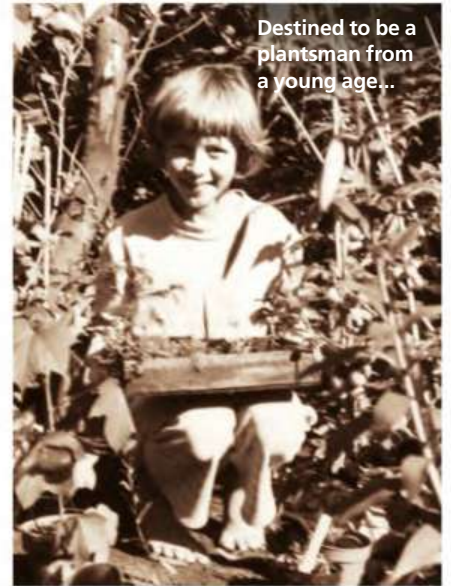
The interior of the house will be a contrast. 'We're looking at using a dark palette, so you're more aware of the light outside. In summer, it'll provide respite from the heat, while in winter it will feel comfortable and protective,' says Dan.

He grew up on the Hampshire-Sussex border with nature all around him. 'I was lucky to have parents who encouraged my childhood interest in the natural world in general and plants in particular. My dad was a painter and my mum taught fashion and textiles and grew veg. I learned from them the importance of close observation, colour and composition. They were always encouraging me and my brother Luke to make and do things, which is what made us both into designers.'

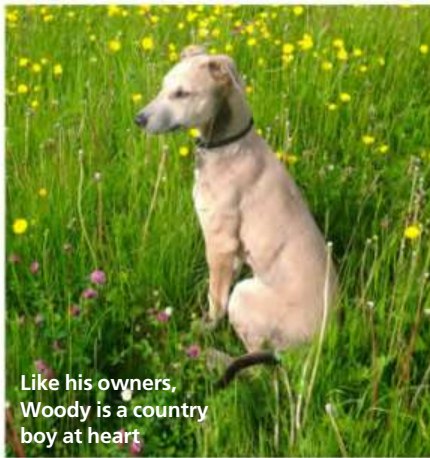
Luke Pearson, the younger of the two, runs north London-based product design



'Huw usually gets a huge harvest from our vegetable garden and turns it into delicious dishes,' says Dan



Destined to be a plantsman from a young age...



Like his owners, Woody is a country boy at heart



Dan designed this Laurent-Perrier Chatsworth Garden that won Best in Show at RHS Chelsea this year

studio, PearsonLloyd, which designs everything from coffee sets for the Vienna Tourist Board to furniture and intelligent waste and recycling systems.

Dan has loved plants for as long as he can remember. As a child of six, he used to sit in bed studying Stapeley's water plants catalogue with a sense of excitement and discovery, and he can still recite their names in order.

When he was 10, the family moved into an Arts & Crafts house. 'It had been lived in for years by Miss Joy, an eccentric Miss Havisham-type, who'd been there since it was built. The first time I went to see it with my mum, there were climbers and ivy coming in through the windows and rat holes the size of cats in the bottoms of all the doors,' he recalls. 'It was both terrifying and hugely exciting to see nature taking over. My mum had all of the rooms wallpapered with William Morris designs, so even after the house was renovated, it felt as though the garden had invaded the house!'

Neighbour Geraldine Noyes, who was a plant collector and botanist, fired Dan's enthusiasm for nature further still. 'She taught me how plants grow in the wild and to

'We love to fill the house with friends for weekends of cooking, eating and drinking,' SAYS DAN

understand the conditions they need to thrive. Then in my early teens I worked for Frances Pumphrey, a wonderful nurserywoman who showed me how to combine form, texture and colour in her garden at Greatham Mill.'

This was just the beginning of what has been an extraordinary career for Dan. In everything he does, he's supported by his long-term partner and company co-director, Huw, a former marketing director for various film production companies. They met through mutual friends in London 24 years ago. 'We were an instant match; we've been very lucky,' he says.

While Dan is designing new schemes, Huw manages the studio schedule and day-to-day running of the business. 'We employ a staff of seven and at any one time have 35 projects

on the go,' he says. They have a small flat next to the design studio in Waterloo, where they spend the working week.

'Our evenings are usually quiet, as we work long hours and we have Woody, our lurcher, to walk after work. We often go down to the Thames foreshore when the tide is out and let him run on the sand there, which he loves. He's a country dog really, and it gives him a taste of the great outdoors in the middle of the city,' says Dan.

At weekends the three of them head for Somerset. Dan loves to be outdoors tending the land, and he's already planted an orchard, blossom wood, nuttree, hedges and a vegetable garden.

'Huw can usually be found behind a camera, at a potter's wheel or in the kitchen. He's the social one and the cook,' says Dan. 'Although it's small, we love to fill the house with our friends for weekends of cooking, eating and drinking, usually as a reward for helping with farm tasks such as tree planting. There's nothing better than eating round a big table with the laughter and conversation of friends you love. This is where I feel rooted and where I call home.' **HB**

Inside guide to COSY LIVING

Experts reveal the new developments in woodburning stoves and offer tips on what to consider before buying



S11-43 multi-fuel convection stove, about £1,258, Morso





MINIMAL FUSS

After a career in the domestic gas and electricity heating industry, **Declan Walsh** joined Danish stove manufacturer Morso as UK managing director in 2006.

INSPIRATION My style is very much in keeping with the Morso style – I like minimal fuss with clean lines. This is of course the Scandinavian ethos that Morso has always adhered to throughout its history. It's all about less is more and that suits me perfectly.

TRENDS While the majority of British homes still have a traditional fireplace, there's been a huge growth in the market for modern-looking stoves. People want freestanding designs that become a focal point in the room, and with larger panels of glass so the flames can be seen. Customers are becoming keen to burn wood rather than manufactured smokeless fuels as it's more environmentally friendly and much easier to use.

FAVOURITE I love the 7443 model with its open log storage base, large glass front door and twin-sided glass panels to maximise the viewing area. In fact we have one at home and all of our friends who see it want one too, which is the best compliment of all! **TIP** Buy a good quality stove that's the right size for the area you want to heat. Also, you really do get what you pay for so invest appropriately and you won't be disappointed in the results.



S80-90 steel insert, £2,228, Morso



Perfect for smaller homes, the Little Wenlock Classic is smart and compact, £825, Aga



STEEPED IN HISTORY

Laura James is author of several New Aga cookbooks. For the past 15 years she's been brand ambassador for Aga, which agreed a takeover bid by an American company in July.

INSPIRATION My style is eclectic. In my home I have lots of pieces collected over the years, rather than matching things bought at the same time. One of my biggest inspirations is decorator Nicky Haslam, who knows better than anyone how to create the perfect country house look with a twist. Recently I've become more drawn to sleek, modern

buildings and next time around I may choose to live somewhere positively minimalist.

TRENDS Woodburning stoves are popular. People are keen to reconnect to nature, to be fuel-independent and to heat their homes in cost-effective, environmentally friendly ways. The popularity of Scandi design contributes to the trend as the more contemporary-looking stoves work brilliantly in that sort of setting. For years, traditional cast-iron styles dominated the market but in more recently there's been a move towards steel. The Hanwood stove looks very different to anything else on the market with its big TV-screen-like rectangular glass window, while the Scandi-style Lawley offers versatility, because you can have it on a pedestal so the whole body moves around, or on a wood store so it remains static. **FAVOURITE** Designs with big windows. You can spend hours gazing at flickering flames. **TIP** In some parts of the country you'll need to choose a smoke-exempt stove to burn wood, so check if this applies to you before buying. Also don't forget installation costs, which can be £500 or more.

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**The Beaumont 8kw
in Ivory, around
£1,770, Chesney's**



EMBRACE COLOUR

After serving as an engineer in the Royal Navy, **Nigel True** embarked on a career as a stove installer. He's in charge of the development of all Chesney's engineered products, including woodburning stoves.

INSPIRATION My personal design style is minimalist and I like to keep my home – unlike my workshop – as uncluttered as possible. Objects are carefully chosen and can be enjoyed individually, but they also relate to each other. My furniture is predominantly modern but I also collect some period pieces. Design heroes include Sir Philip

Watts, who designed the *Dreadnought*, the first battleship to use steam turbine propulsion. Another is, unsurprisingly, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, who was responsible for the design of a number of famous ships, including *The Great Britain*, the world's first iron-hulled, propeller-driven, steam-powered passenger liner.

TRENDS Having helped disprove the idea that a stove is simply a black box that only needs to deliver heat, we're finding that our coloured stoves – especially Ivory at the moment – are particularly popular. Customers also want to enjoy the largest possible window through which to view the fire. The challenge here is that generally speaking, the larger the window, the larger the stove and the more heat it puts out.

FAVOURITE Our new Beaumont 8kilowatt stove (shown above in Ivory) with its brass door furniture. Black, Silver, Atlantic Blue, Sage Green and Terracotta are also available, plus the latest addition – a gorgeous new brown paint colour, Autumn Leaves.

TIP Very simple: make sure you only burn dry wood in your stove



NORWEGIAN HEAT

Nick Sloane set up Jotul UK in 2000.

The Jotul Group has been producing cast-iron woodburning stoves in Norway since 1853 with a UK presence since the 1970s.

INSPIRATION I tend to prefer classic, timeless designs that will fit into any setting and appeal to all generations. I love a handcrafted, unfussy style that the Scandi countries seem to produce, with its clean lines and products that combine form and function perfectly. Norway is one of the coldest countries on the planet, so if any nation has well designed heating in its DNA, it must surely be Norway.

TRENDS The trend for the past few years has been moving away from traditional inglenook installations to freestanding stoves attached to a twin wall with a visible flue. Multi-fuel is less popular as customers come to see the merits of burning wood rather than fossil fuels.

FAVOURITE The Jotul F305 (below) is probably the best stove ever designed! It's the first of our neoclassic styles designed by Anderssen and Voll, one of Norway's most respected design partnerships.

TIPS Make sure you get the heat output right for your room. Not big enough and it's a waste of time; too big and your room will be uncomfortably hot. Also always use an authorised dealer.



**The neoclassical
design F305,
£1,555, Jotul**

THREE TO WATCH



TIP Use it, enjoy it. A modern woodburning stove offers fantastic controllability, style and an excellent heat source, so make the most of it when possible

FUNCTION AND BEAUTY

Mark Brettell joined Arada Stoves as a marketing assistant in 2000 and is now responsible for the design and marketing of all its British-built stoves.

INSPIRATION William Morris. He said: 'Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful.' That's what we try to achieve at Arada by paying attention to detail to ensure our stoves are as functional and beautiful as they can be. **TRENDS** Modern, single-door stoves with large glass panels and user-friendly controls. Customers also like coloured exteriors, slim bodies and efficient performance. **FAVOURITE** The Farrington – it has the ultimate in clean technology, a large fire window and superior controls.



i600 Slimline,
£1,048, Arada



TIP Always talk to an expert retailer who can help you decide on the right model first to provide the right amount of heat for your home

STRIPPED-BACK STYLE

Matt Forester joined Stovax at 23 with a love of product design and problem solving. Today, he's head of the company's design engineers.

INSPIRATION My style is minimalist. I love stripping things back to their core design so the functionality of a product can shine through. I'm inspired by industrial style – it combines my passions of art and engineering and am a big fan of Art Deco and classicism. **TRENDS** There's a movement towards fusing traditional design with technological advances. This means the stove looks basically the same but might have a larger panel of glass than previously and be super-efficient when it comes to saving fuel. **FAVOURITE** The fuel-efficient Vogue (right).



Vogue Midi,
£1,195, Stovax



TIP Be brave and consider a coloured stove. It's not as heavy on the eye as black and in the summer, when it's not lit, it still looks fresh and light

FAMILY BUSINESS

Ced Wells grew up in the business founded by his grandfather, father and uncle in 1972. He joined in 1993, returning in 2002 with three brothers and other family members.

INSPIRATION Life on the Isle of Wight centres around family, beach walks and roaring fires and I'm inspired by this lifestyle. Our designs are about 'form following function' and we aim for a timeless aesthetic. **TRENDS** Stoves are almost like pieces of furniture. People are more adventurous with pattern, and colours – our Almond (right), Gunmetal or French Grey are popular. **FAVOURITE** Our Bay inserts, which fit neatly into the wall and minimise the mess. **HB**



The Country Living Bembridge,
£1,206, Charnwood

What's behind a Howdens kitchen?





Turn the page to read our story...

Behind every Howdens kitchen is experience and expertise from beginning to end.



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We supply trade only professionals because they know how to install a fully working kitchen

Howdens Joinery is the UK's largest manufacturer and supplier of fitted kitchens, appliances and joinery products.

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A garden designer's barn conversion has been built to make the most of the countryside around it

WORDS DOMINIC BRADBURY PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD POWERS



LIVING ROOM
The open-plan space includes the sitting room, dining area and kitchen, with connections to the outdoors at both sides. Brick floors throughout are partly inspired by a mid-century American house by Bauhaus master Marcel Breuer. The Danish vintage sofa by Fabricius & Kastholm, is complemented by vintage Hans Wegner armchairs and a standing lamp by Rubn



OUTDOOR LIFE
Garden designer Emily and her husband Sean, a graphic designer



EXTERIOR
In a quiet part of North Norfolk, the property features a garden, a single-storey home within the extended piggery, and the old tithe barn

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Our idea from the beginning was that it should be a building where you can experience the inside from the outside and vice versa,' says garden designer Emily Erlam of the Norfolk barn conversion she and her husband, Sean Perkins, call home. 'It's a house where you're being tempted outside all the time. Even if it's raining you can be drawn out and sheltered on the veranda.'

That the couple have managed to achieve such a vibrant sense of connection between their warm, crafted living spaces and the beauty of their natural surroundings is testament to the skilful re-imagining of the property and Emily's talent as a designer and plantswoman. She creates garden schemes that complement the architecture of a building while remaining sensitive to the wider landscape.

Having grown up in this peaceful part of Norfolk Emily knows it well. She moved to London and worked for the BBC for a number of years before starting a second career as a garden designer. The county then drew her back, offering the chance to create a new home and garden to share with Sean, a graphic designer with his own practice, and their sons, Josh, 10, and Leo, seven.

The couple were quickly seduced by Old Barn when they spotted a for sale sign outside it in 2010. Sean particularly loves the sense of space and scale a barn provides and had previously worked on a barn conversion project in Essex with the architects John Pawson and Niall Maxwell.

After securing Old Barn through sealed bids in spring 2011, the couple went back to Maxwell – who now has his own practice, the Rural Office for Architecture – and began a close collaboration on a design. The property came with a single-storey piggery at one side and a vast tithe barn at the other. After some discussion, they decided to focus their attention on the piggery to begin with.

'We were quite naive,' says Emily. 'We bought the tithe barn and piggery thinking we would renovate and live in both, but soon realised we couldn't afford to and were persuaded by Niall – quite rightly – to start off by creating a modest, single-storey

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PANTRY

Bespoke sliding doors inspired by the rolling doors seen on modern barns and agricultural sheds mean the pantry can be hidden away

KITCHEN

Sitting at one end of the newly built part of the barn, the kitchen features customised cupboard units from Plain English. Double doors to the side give access to the veranda and an outdoor sitting room



‘Our idea from the beginning was that it should be a building where you can experience the inside from the outside and vice versa,’ SAYS EMILY



‘Sean is passionate about Danish furniture, so we have a few pieces by Hans Wegner and others that work really well here,’ SAYS EMILY



HALLWAY

Bespoke barn-style doors lead to the children's bedroom and the lobby. The original portion of the converted piggery holds the entrance hall, a bathroom and three bedrooms, including a bedroom/playroom. The chest of drawers in the bedroom at the far end is vintage

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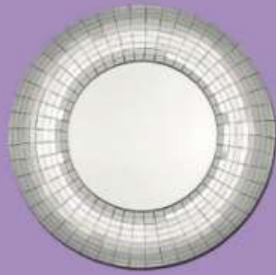
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‘I was hoping for a log cabin retreat. Something warm, soft and homely, which makes for a happy, relaxed environment,’ SAYS SEAN

BATHROOM

A simple space at the heart of the old piggery, it is flooded with light drawn in from a rooflight above

MAIN BEDROOM

Designed with Shaker-style simplicity and warmth, the master bedroom features wall lights by Rubn and the bench at the foot of the bed is by Niels Otto Møller, from twentytwentyone

house. One day in the future we’ll break through and connect to the big barn.’ The piggery was converted into several rooms including three bedrooms and the main entrance to the house, but the open-plan living area is contained within a new-build section, which provides a link to the empty tithe barn and also connects to the outdoors at either side, with glass doors bringing in natural light.

A brick floor with underfloor heating ties the living areas together, while bespoke doors, cabinets and cupboards create a crafted feel, combining contemporary design and Shaker-style simplicity. The kitchen sits at one end, with the seating area at the other and the dining table in the centre. A lovingly assembled collection of mid-century furniture lends the interior a feeling of Scandi warmth and character.

‘Right from the beginning, the timber and joinery elements were really important to us,’ Emily says. ‘They pick up on the origins of the barns but also give the spaces a softness, and we their minimalist style. Everything can be lifted off the floor and tucked away or placed on the fitted wooden pegs. It’s a great way to live, especially if there’s not much floor space.’ And Sean is passionate about Danish furniture, so we have a few pieces by Hans Wegner and others that work really well here.’

Emily has created a choice of outdoor areas, with the main living spaces looking out onto a striking planted garden sheltered by the shape of the building itself and a flint-and-brick wall, which also helps to define a fresh-air sitting room. The big barn, meanwhile, remains under discussion. One idea is to have an indoor garden at the heart of this soaring space, with a work studio and extra living space to either side. ‘We’d like to create an unconventional and surprising space’ says Sean, ‘with an exciting, living indoor garden at the centre with big, open areas.’

Judging by the home that the family have already created for themselves, it is sure to be something very special. **HB**

● Visit ruralofficeforarchitecture.co.uk; erlamstudio.com

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

SITTING ROOM

Gorgeous period detailing features in the first floor room, which has been painted in Farrow & Ball's Card Room Green. The Artemide Tolomeo Mega floor lamp is from Made in Design, the rugs are Moroccan and the 1930s Italian coffee table is a family heirloom



HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Sanja Moll, 38, a restaurateur, and her husband Lupi, 41, a barrister, with their four children, Daisy, 13, Finn, 11, Jake, eight, and Millie, five

THE PROPERTY

A three-storey, six-bedroom Georgian semi in Edinburgh's New Town

PRICE Private sale

MONEY SPENT £250,000

WHAT IT'S WORTH NOW

Approx £1 million

Colour VISION

Once a tired and drab office block, this Georgian house is now a spacious and vibrant family home

WORDS FIONA REID PHOTOGRAPHY SUSAN BURNELL



This Georgian home has now been restored to its former glory

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When it came to deciding on the rich colour scheme for their new home, Sanja and Lupi Moll didn't have to look far for inspiration. 'The house led us,' says Sanja. 'It's late Georgian and beautifully designed, so it wasn't difficult at all to figure out how to decorate it.'

The couple had recently completed a substantial renovation, returning this beautiful property with its soaring ceilings and intricate period features into a fabulous home. They bought it in March 2014 – it had previously been used as an office for years, and before that had been a funeral parlour and even a coach house!

Looking beyond the outdated fittings and odd room arrangement, the pair recognised it had the potential to become a spacious home for a modern family. As well as having it rewired and replumbed and getting a new kitchen and bathroom installed, the couple turned the attic space into a new top floor – making three storeys in all – with bedrooms and two bathrooms for the children.

Despite all the years it had been used as an office, the house had retained its original Georgian features, from the working window shutters to the stone staircase that winds up through the house. 'What's more, all the period features were in good condition, so the rest

KITCHEN

Joiners working on the refurbishment made the units, which have granite worktops from IKM

PORTRAIT

Sanja sits in a chair (left) by artist Roland Frazer that came from The Open Eye Gallery

LIVING ROOM

The sofa is from sofa.com and the original window shutters are painted in Andaman Sea by Fired Earth. An artwork by Jim Dine hangs above the fireplace

‘The house led us. It’s late Georgian and beautifully designed, so it wasn’t difficult to figure out how to decorate it,’ SAYS SANJA





of the work was mainly cosmetic,' says Sanja, who drew on the experience of designing four restaurants in London.

One major decision the couple had to make was where to put the open-plan kitchen diner. They chose ground level overlooking the front garden, but because that's not where the kitchen would have been historically the local planning authority made some conditions before they'd grant consent for this alteration. 'We had to make it look as little like a kitchen as possible, so with no fitted cupboards, for example,' says Sanja. 'However, the freestanding look is possibly how we'd have done it anyway.'

The kitchen cabinets were made by the joiners working on the refurbishment, and having had and loved original flagstones in Lupi's previous Georgian flat, the couple decided to use the same materials here.

For the rest of the interior, they combined various pieces and styles to create an individual feel. 'The furniture is a mix that Lupi and I have bought over the years,' says Sanja. 'In Edinburgh we went to places like Homer and Retropolis, and we shopped online from made.com. We also went to Morocco on our honeymoon and brought back various lights and rugs.'

'I looked at design magazines and books and used Pinterest to capture ideas. If there was

SNUG

A Saucer ceiling lamp by George Nelson at Moleta Munro stands out against the blue walls and floorboards painted in Farrow & Ball's Hague Blue. The Aissa corner sofa is from sofa.com and the table was made by a Portuguese artisan

LANDING

The seating in this light, bright area is from Retropolis. Lupi has had the mirror for years. Scatter cushions are in saffron from John Lewis

BEDROOM

White-painted floors and furniture and walls in Farrow & Ball's Blue Gray are a neutral backdrop to the vibrant soft furnishings. The wall panel is from Jeffreys Interiors, while the dresser is from The Old Cinema

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MAIN BEDROOM

A combination of walls in Oval Room Blue from Farrow & Ball and deep-red painted furniture brings a touch of oriental serenity to the room

STAIRCASE

Three paint colours from Farrow & Ball – Shaded White, Wimborne White and Incarnadine – emphasise the dramatic lines of the staircase

BATHROOM

Patterned tiles from Bert & May work beautifully with Fired Earth's Ladrillo tiles. The towel rack is an old piece that Lupi has had for years

any challenge it was the height of the ceilings and ensuring that the rooms didn't end up feeling cold.' Clearly colour has been important to the couple, both in terms of the furnishings and the walls, which are beautiful in the cool northern light. 'We both love art and like colour, though I'd say that Lupi leans towards colour even more than I do – I'd probably have tried to sneak in a few more grey walls,' Sanja admits. 'And our kids chose their own room colours.'

Green walls and red sofas in the drawing room are a particularly dramatic combination. 'I chose Farrow & Ball's Card Room Green because I'd used it in one of my restaurants in London so I knew it worked,' Sanja says. 'It's calming but not boring, and I love red and green together.'

They also injected colour and pattern into the rest of the house. Their bathroom, for instance, is decorated mainly in shades of white but its wet room-style shower features bold Moroccan tiles from Bert & May. 'I wanted this room to be white and peaceful in contrast to the deeper colours elsewhere,' says Sanja.

The result is a dramatic family home. 'It's big enough for everyone to have their own space, but the kitchen and snug are actually very intimate,' says Sanja. 'It just works.' **HB**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



BACK TO LIFE

Combining colour, pattern, texture and retro pieces, this couple have turned a neglected period property into a unique and stylish family home

WORDS CLARE WALLACE PHOTOGRAPHY FIONA WALKER-ARNOTT

DINING AREA

A circular table made by Marc's company, Marc Boase, fits perfectly in the window. The Castelli DSC stacking chairs were found at a Brighton car-boot sale and the light is from an antiques shop along the coast in Hastings



HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Edwina Boase, 33, a freelance interior stylist, her designer husband Marc, 42, and their three children Woody, 11, Arlo, 4, and Beatrix, 18 months

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom Victorian mid-terrace in central Brighton

PRICE £350,000

MONEY SPENT £100,000

WHAT IT'S WORTH

NOW £600,000

KITCHEN

Sleek Ikea units, with deep, soft-closing drawers, give the kitchen a streamlined look. Edwina sourced the iroko wood worktop from architectural salvage company Trainspotters. The ceramic wall tiles are from Johnson Tiles and the appliances came from Smeg



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With a baby on the way, Edwina Boase was keen for renovation work on her new home to be completed. Together with her husband Marc, she'd been working on the central Brighton property for six months. 'Luckily there were no real problems,' she says, 'but with an imminent home birth, we could certainly have done with some more time!'

Fortunately the Boases had been living in the house for two weeks before baby Arlo arrived. He was born in their sunny bedroom, which is now Edwina's favourite room in this interesting and eclectic seaside home.

Before they found this house the couple had been looking in central Brighton for some time for something within their budget that they could refurbish. 'We'd almost given up hope when we stumbled across this Victorian property; it was unloved and had been left to slowly deteriorate, so needed a complete overhaul,' explains Edwina.

'It was structurally sound but very rundown, with a gaping hole in the bathroom floor, but it's just a few minutes' walk from the seafront. We were attracted by the original features, and the fireplace and ensuite bathroom were very much on our wish list! We also loved the proportions and potential to extend the garden, more than half of which was a dilapidated parking space.'

Marc runs an interior and architectural practice in Brighton and Edwina is an interior stylist, so the couple

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LIVING ROOM (above)
The Danish sofa bed, from Designs of Modernity, tones perfectly with the 1960s Scoop swivel chair by Pierre Paulin for Artifort. Marc laid the reclaimed parquet floor

SHELF DETAIL (left)
Simple shelving displays collectibles. The couple love searching out curios on their travels abroad

LIVING ROOM (right)
A Stovax Riva 66 cassette woodburner brings warmth to the scheme





were more than ready for the challenge. The sale went through smoothly. 'As we weren't in a chain, there were no major dramas, just lots of nerves!' says Edwina. They became official owners in 2011.

'As soon as we had the keys Marc gutted the property, then we set about designing the new floorplans and a rear extension for the kitchen,' recalls Edwina. The renovation entailed everything from a complete rewire to new plumbing, windows, insulation, flooring and landscaping.

'Through Marc's work we had access to a black book of great tradesmen, plus he was able to do all the joinery and general building work himself – this really helped to keep the budget down,' she adds. For example, he laid the beautiful reclaimed herringbone parquet floor and built the sliding cupboard fronts in the sitting room from Wrongwoods floorboards that were left over from another job.

The area outside the main bedroom leads down to the back door. 'Because we live on a hill, the entrance is on the third floor,' says Edwina. 'When we viewed the house for the first time, our son Woody called it 'the upside-down house'.

The front garden was re-landscaped to include a small lawn, which doubles up as a parking space thanks to the installation of a specialist grid. 'We're lucky that we're only overlooked by a corset workshop,' says Edwina.

Six months into the renovation, the house was ready for the couple to move into, and then they

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MAIN BEDROOM

(above left) Spacious and filled with light, the bedroom has a sunny yellow palette tempered with splashes of grey. The Morrison padded felt bed from Dwell was a moving-in present from Edwina's grandmother, and the glossy bedside tables were designed by Marc

WARDROBE (above right) Edwina and Marc worked together to create the quirky wardrobe design, covering the doors in Campas 4 fabric from Kvadrat and the buttons in colours from the same range

MAIN BEDROOM

(left) The canary yellow fibreglass Herman Miller shell chair was another car-boot-sale find



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started gradually decorating and furnishing. 'It's an ongoing project,' she says.

The house is full of personality and retro charm. 'I guess you could call our style eclectic,' muses Edwina. 'Our home is a reflection of our lives and travels and we love mixing old with new.'

Most of the walls are painted white, which provides a perfect backdrop for accents of colour. The couple enjoy scouring flea markets, car-boot sales, eBay and vintage shops both here and abroad and have amassed a vibrant and interesting collection of collectibles, prints and glassware. 'We have a shared passion for good quality materials and love sourcing antique furniture, lighting and fabrics,' she says.

Today, there are only a few minor things Edwina would change about the house, such as the leaking tap in the ensuite. 'That's the result of me falling in love with a reclaimed basin and taps!' she admits. 'For future projects I've promised to stop searching for antique pieces that need to be plumbed in – but we'll see.'

'It's a fantastic family home and a joy to spend time in. We've made happy memories here, many shared with friends and relatives. We also occasionally rent it out through Airbnb and it's a pleasure to receive positive feedback. 'We're happy in our home, so I think we'll be staying for the foreseeable future!'

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



ARLO'S BEDROOM

(above left) Edwina introduced bursts of colour with the Freddie star rug by the Plantation Rug Company and a rainbow world map from The Future Mapping Company. The bedside table is by Kartell at Heal's

BEATRIX'S BEDROOM

(above right) A patchwork quilt from a flea market in Hastings gives a vintage flavour alongside toys and books of yesteryear. Another Kartell bedside table adds a modern touch

ENSUITE BATHROOM

(left) Hexagonal tiles from Walls and Floors work well with the basin, taps and marble top, found at salvoweb.com

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INTERIOR DESIGN

Jennifer chose a coastal theme – highlighting the property's proximity to the sea

LIVING ROOM

A local builder made the fireside niches to Jennifer's design. The sofas are from Meadows & Byrne and the cushions are from The Blue Door

Retro REVIVAL

A house that had been lost in a seventies time warp has been stylishly updated and is now a spacious and contemporary home

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA EGAN

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE



HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Jennifer Walsh, a management consultant, her husband Joe, a commercial director, both in their forties, and their children Grace, 12, Eoghan 11, Darragh, nine, and Thomas, seven

THE PROPERTY A refurbished and extended five-bedroom detached house in Rosslare Strand, Co Wexford

PRICE The house belonged to Jennifer's family

MONEY SPENT £175,000

WHAT IT'S WORTH NOW £450,000





KITCHEN

The country-style units are from Cedar Craft Kitchens in Rosslare

Rosslare Strand in County Wexford is probably one of the most wonderful places imaginable to be a carefree child. A small village with a huge beach, it's officially the sunniest place in Ireland. 'I loved the beach and the outdoors, and as children we thought it was heaven,' says Jennifer Walsh. 'I knew that when I had my own children I'd want them to enjoy the lifestyle here.'

The home she'd lived in as a child was still in the family, and just over two years ago Jennifer, her husband and children came to live there. In the intervening years the house had dated and Jennifer realised she'd have quite a large-scale renovation ahead. The existing dormer bungalow had been built in the 1970s and still had the original bathroom, complete with avocado suite, and a brown kitchen with matching brown appliances. But the real challenge was going to be in updating the house for a different generation. Two of the four bedrooms were small by today's standards and lacked ensuites, and the whole house needed replumbing, new windows and insulating.

'It had to be done,' says Jennifer, 'so we took the opportunity to do a high quality job and make a bright, comfortable home that's warm, welcoming and spacious enough to have guests to stay too.' To gain that space, the house needed to be extended, so Jennifer consulted with a selection of architects. 'That didn't go so well,' she admits. 'One wanted to demolish the house and start again; another to add a glass box extension – essentially a glasshouse for living in the sunniest town in Ireland!'

Jennifer wanted the new plans to be sympathetic to the original house and in scale with the

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

WORKTOP

Jennifer chose the worktop for its sandy, beach colours



DINING AREA

A simple, understated scheme ensures the dining area looks bright and uncluttered. The chairs are painted in Chalk Grey chalk paint from Lily Blooms



GRACE'S BEDROOM

Bunting bought at a local craft fair hangs above the bed. An Ikea wardrobe and side table and a bedspread from Marks & Spencer are teamed with a pretty desk and chair for a simple, restful room



SHOWER ROOM

A skylight ensures the room is bright. The tiles are from Tilestyle



local landscape. Rosslare is a small, friendly town; although summer visitors can swell the population to 14,000, permanent residents number about a tenth of that figure. 'I wanted to keep it simple, not that different in its external appearance to what is was,' she says.

Eventually she found sympathetic local architect Nicky Mernagh. Together they set about a major redesign of the interior. 'My aim for the ground floor kitchen and living area was to create a large space for family and entertaining, and to link the interior with the exterior living space as family life is very much focused on the outdoors, especially in summer. As part of that, I also wanted the sea to be constantly visible from every area in the ground floor, which is why there are no solid doors on that level; every single one is glazed.'

The large kitchen/dining space is designed to be open and free-flowing to the outside terrace in summer, but cosy when the winter gales arrive. Positioned on an exposed area of the coastline the house has to face fierce storms. 'This is a very different home in summer and winter. I deliberately kept the living room to the original size and layout so when it's cold we feel warm and snug, gathered around a large open fire,' says Jennifer.

Finally, Jennifer wanted to create spacious, fresh and simple bedrooms, each with a sea view. The one exception is the boys' room, which she designed around a nautical theme as a haven for her sons and their friends. Each of the four bunk beds is self-contained, and has its own reading lamp, storage bin with flip-up lid and sockets for iPods and iPads. Plans were drawn up by the architect and submitted to the local authority for

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The Duravit logo, featuring a stylized 'D' with a triangle inside, followed by the word 'DURAVIT' in a bold, sans-serif font.

DURAVIT

A modern bathroom interior with light blue walls and dark wood flooring. On the left is a white vanity with a bowl sink and a mirror with a gold frame. On the right is a white freestanding bathtub. Large windows and a glass door provide a view of the ocean. A stack of towels and books is on the floor in the bottom right corner.

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**BOYS' BUNKROOM**

Jennifer designed the built-in bunks with storage bins and iPod/iPad sockets, as the boys' own personal spaces

approval, then Jennifer took over the reins, project managing the job herself, with the help of an experienced local builder. It was a job she relished. 'I absolutely loved it,' she says. 'I enjoy the TV programmes about home renovation, but the reality is so much better, I even like the smell of fresh paint and plaster. This is the third renovation I've done and I'd love to do more.'

The build started in September 2013 and the structural work was substantially completed six months later. 'For the finishing, I had a theme of simple beach life, using for inspiration homes I'd seen on the east coast of America, particularly Newport in Rhode Island, Stonington, Connecticut and Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. I went for a 'cotton fresh' look, rather than luxurious,' says Jennifer.

She assembled a moodboard using images from magazines. 'All of them had similar muted colours, whites, greys and neutrals, darker floors, high 'cathedral' ceilings, and blue and white furnishings,' says Jennifer. 'Interest came from flashes of red in the accessories and I included lots of shells, stones and driftwood with beachcombing finds used for display. The moodboard clarified for me exactly what I was aiming for in the interiors.'

'I'm really pleased with what I've achieved,' she says. 'The house functions so well. It's warm, bright and comfortable during summer and winter, through sunshine and howling gale, and it's definitely good to go for another generation!' **HB**

● **Contact builder Liam Byrne of P&L Byrne on 00 353 913 2260**

**EXTERIOR**

The original 1970s bungalow has been extended and improved. New glazing is from Aru Joinery in Arklow

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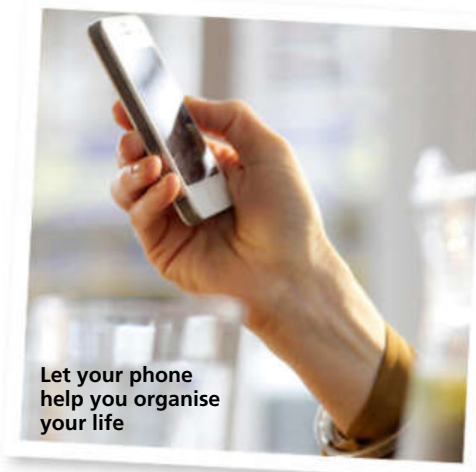
Around Me Love the house but want to know if there's a good restaurant nearby, a decent supermarket and a convenient petrol station? This app provides an overview of all the essential services. *iOS, Android and Windows; free*

Sunseeker Lite If you're interested in a house and want to know where the sun comes up or which way a garden faces, this app will help. And if you pay for an augmented version, it even offers 3D visuals. *Free for iOS and Android, plus various paid-for augmented versions*

Open Signal Reliable Wi-Fi and good mobile phone coverage is important in any new home. This app pinpoints what's in the vicinity and in doing so, helps to contribute towards an ongoing map of coverage in the UK. *iOS and Android; free*

* INTERIOR DESIGN

Pinterest One of the first apps to empower your inner interior designer, this visual discovery tool allows you to create collections of images that inspire you to help plan any interior, DIY, craft or garden design scheme. You can also check out other people's ideas. *iOS and Android; free*



Houzz Want to browse thousands of architecture and interior design ideas from around the world? This app, a favourite of interior designers, pulls together moodboards, product ideas, trends and property services. *iOS and Android; free*

Dulux Visualizer This lets you zoom your phone around a room to try different shades of paint. You can also save colour schemes and product details and order samples. *iOS; free*

Remodelista This online sourcebook is packed with smart and sophisticated ideas from stylists and interior design experts around the world, and brings you daily design updates. *iOS; £2.29*

MagicPlan It's often hard to imagine what a space could look like without the walls, but this app allows you to create 'indoor maps' by measuring your rooms and drawing out floor plans. Add furniture and objects to bring your rooms to life. *iOS; free*

* MONEY MANAGEMENT

On Trees Backed by moneysupermarket.com, this works with major UK banks including Lloyds, NatWest, Santander, HSBC, Barclays and Halifax to gather all your financial data together so you can see exactly how much is coming in and going out. It also offers a breakdown of what you spend on eating out, groceries, travel and household bills. *iPhone and Apple Watch; free*

Money Dashboard Similar to On Trees, this pulls together your banking and credit card details, but it also helps you to set goals to save up for big purchases such as a house, and reduce the amount of debt you're paying off. *iPhone; free*

Mortgage Mentor Compare mortgage deals, see the difference between repayment and interest-only mortgages, check how quickly your mortgage will be paid off should you overpay every month, or find out how much it will cost you over five, 10 or 15 years. *iPhone; £1.49*

TWITTER TALK

Peter de Vena Franks of the Will Aid campaign (willaid.org.uk), explains why it's important to make a will

@HB: Why do I need a will?

@WillAid: If there's no will your assets may go to people you've never met or the Treasury

@HB: Do I need a solicitor?

@WillAid: Yes, because they're regulated and insured. Find one at willaid.org.uk – they'll donate their fee for writing it to charity

@HB: Where will it be kept?

@WillAid: At the solicitor's or in another safe place. Register its whereabouts free with certainty.co.uk using code willaid2015

@HB: Who ensures my wishes are carried out properly?

@WillAid: Your executor – a family member, friend or solicitor

@HB: Can I change my mind?

@WillAid: Update or change your will with Will Aid. Explain the changes you need to make and your solicitor will advise

@HB: Should I tell my family?

@WillAid: To avoid disputes after you've gone and ensure your loved ones understand your wishes, it's better to tell them

@HB: Do I have to make one more than once?

@WillAid: Life changes may make your will out of date. In England and Wales, if you marry or remarry, your old will becomes invalid

@HB: Could it be challenged?

@WillAid: If it was forged or wrongly completed, or it's thought you weren't of sound mind, were unduly influenced or didn't understand the contents

@HB: Any other reasons?

@WillAid: If you choose to exclude a close family member who expected to inherit and who will suffer hardship as a result

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IDEAS for first-time buyers

ST AUSTELL, CORNWALL

£194,950



With direct access to Duporth Bay, this first-floor two-bed apartment has an open-plan living room, kitchen/dining area with balcony access, master bedroom with ensuite and balcony, and parking space. It's available through Help to Buy.

Linden Homes,
01726 421670

CITY CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

£165,000



Located close to St Paul's Square and within easy reach of Snow Hill and New Street train stations, this one-bed third-floor apartment has a spacious open-plan sitting room with a feature curved wall, bedroom with built-in wardrobes, plus allocated parking space.

Maguire Jackson,
0121 634 1520

HORLEY, SURREY

£146,250



At the new Russell Square development, you can move straight into a two-bed penthouse on a 45 per cent shared ownership basis of £325,000. Apartments feature a roof terrace, generous living area and dedicated car parking.

Thames Valley Housing,
020 8607 0550

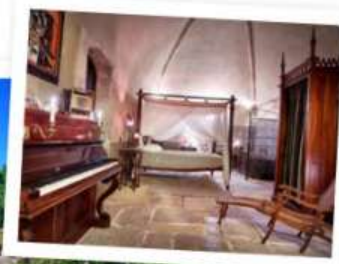
KINGSWOOD PARKS, NR BEVERLEY, E YORKS

£90,000



The one-bedroom 'Soho' house is part of this developer's First Step range, aimed at first-time buyers and available through Help to Buy. It comes with flexible living space and a high specification, including carpets, Neff oven and fitted kitchen.

Beal Homes,
0800 612 1216



Johnny Depp's village near St Tropez is for sale

PROPERTY gossip

It's almost obligatory for a Hollywood star to own a holiday home, but a whole village? Johnny Depp does, and the *Pirates of the Caribbean* star is selling his entire French property for £16.5 million. The sprawling 37-acre estate near St Tropez was a favourite haunt of the star and his former partner, French actress and singer Vanessa Paradis, with whom he has two children. The couple split three years ago.

'Johnny has decided to sell the Plan-de-la-Tour property to close this chapter of his life,' says Alexander Kraft, head of Sotheby's International Realty France, which is handling the sale. 'He decorated everything, paying attention to the smallest detail, in a Bohemian or artistic style.'

The village includes a church that the actor converted into a guest house, a café, two swimming pools, a gym and a skate park built for his son Jack and daughter Lily-Rose.



PROPERTY FINANCE
SPECIALIST

Melanie Bien

Money expert and
founder of Bien Media

She wants to buy a council house

My daughter has the option to buy a council house. Is it any different from buying a private property and can the fact that it's a local authority home make it easier to get a mortgage?

Ex-local authority properties are often popular among first-time buyers and investors because they usually offer great value for money. They tend to be of good solid construction, quite spacious and in conveniently located areas. In practice the buying process is the same as with a non ex-local authority property but lenders may be more cautious, with concerns around the use of concrete, and in flats the access from communal balconies – and the floor the property is located on may also be taken into account.

But because they're so commonplace, particularly in London, it's not really an issue. Most of the bigger banks and building societies will be happy to lend on ex-local authority properties, although they will rely on the surveyor's comments and will usually want to know what percentage of the building is council-occupied. Your solicitor should also establish whether there are any major works scheduled on the estate and how much they will cost. **HB**



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WARM AND WONDERFUL

Try these smart ideas to keep toasty all through the winter

FIERY GLOW

Use wallpaper and fabrics to create an impression of warmth. Metallic surfaces are ideal as they reflect a glow from artificial lighting and the hearth. For similar wallpaper, try Belvedere by Harlequin, £48 a roll from Wallpaperdirect. Team with richly coloured cushions in velvet for instant warmth or mix and match different sizes and shades for a relaxed and inviting feel. **Eva sofa in Fox, from £1,860; Aldwych side table, £170; Arthur stool, from £400; all Neptune**



1

1 REMOTE CONTROL

A thermostat such as the Hive by British Gas allows you to control your heating remotely via your mobile phone, tablet or laptop, so if you're out longer than anticipated or back earlier than planned, you can adjust when your heating comes on. It also comes in a variety of colours to match your walls. **Hive Active Heating 2 kit, £249 including installation, British Gas**

2 REGAL AFFAIR

Create a wintry snug in your bedroom with an over-the-bed canopy. As well as adding a touch of luxury, it also creates a cocoon effect that's great for chilly evenings. **Canopy in Blazer Stripe Dark Navy, £29.50 a metre; bedhead in Dunoon Dark Navy, £49.50 a metre; armchair in Windsor Dark Navy velvet, £64.50 a metre; all Ian Mankin**

3 SHINE A LIGHT

Scatter pillar candles along a rustic dining table for the perfect accompaniment to hearty comfort food. Keep the look relaxed by using different sizes together. Alternatively, use battery-operated flameless candles, from £10 at House of Fraser. **Candles, from £1.50, Wilko. Forest Check jug, £20; bottle vase, £25; Highland tumblers, £8 each; Forest Check 16-piece dinnerware set, £104; Check napkins, £16 for four; all Linea Highlands at House of Fraser**



2



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5



6

4 MARK THE WAY

It's essential to block draughts, especially if you're living in an older house. Floorboards inevitably move over the years, so filling gaps along skirting is crucial. Once all gaps are sealed, create a striking feature with a boldly coloured painted stripe following the line of the skirting. **Wall painted in Grey Teal Absolute emulsion, £37 for 2.5L; stripe painted in Marigold Absolute emulsion, £18.75 for 1L; both Little Greene**

5 COSY TOES

Give your heating a boost with a Rugbuddy. It's basically an electric blanket for your floor and enables you to concentrate heat where you want it, helping keep feet toasty on cold days. Place the RugBuddy on an underlay, then lay your rug on top. **RugBuddy, £69 for 0.5m x 1m, BeWarmer. Sisal Malay Shanghai rug, £363.98 for 2.4m x 1.5m, Alternative Flooring. For a similar armchair, try Liberty. Signal floor lamp, £330, The Conran Shop**

6 THREAD COUNTS

Linen is an excellent fabric choice for bedlinen; it keeps you warm in winter and cool in summer. For a sophisticated look, stick to plain colours, and introduce an accent colour in one or two scatter cushions. **Lisbon 100 per cent linen pillowcases, £40 for a pair in Grey and Coral; Grey ruched pillow, filled with a luxury feather pad, from £40; all Also Home**

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

‘Choose coordinating fabrics from the same range to achieve a look that’s smart but not too matchy-matchy. Add a heavier cloth such as tweed to warm things up.’

KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES, INTERIORS EDITOR

SLEEPY HEAD

An upholstered bedstead creates a luxurious feel. Layer the bed with duvets, quilts and blankets to make it even more inviting. Consider lighting for bedtime reading – a pendant light hung low over a bedside table is a quirky touch and keeps the table surface clear for your mug of cocoa. **Buttoned headboard upholstered in Harris Tweed in Heather, from £735 for a double; quilt made up in Stockholm Stripe in Terracotta, Charcoal and Winter, £48 a metre, with border in Plain Linen in Charcoal, £44 a metre; cushions (from back): Bird Hop in Damask; Simple Ticking Detail in Dormouse; Wild & Free in Kale and Charcoal; Bird Hop in Charcoal; all £48 a metre, Vanessa Arbuthnott**



7



8



9

7 DARK SELECTION

Deep paint shades can bring warmth to a room. If you don't want a full redecoration, opt for a feature wall or paint up to an imaginary line just above eye level – or beneath a dado rail, if you have one. For a similar paint colour, try Midnight Iris 2, £24.49 for 2.5L matt emulsion, Dulux. Soften the look with light pinks and greys and a punch of copper. **For a similar sofa, try Graham and Green. Rockett St George sells similar floor lamps. Pink frill pillowcase, £12.99; pink ruffle cushion cover, £7.99; cushion covers, from £2.99; blanket, £24.99; all H&M**

8 MIND THE GAP

Although real wood floors look great, cold air circulates underneath floorboards and can leave your toes feeling chilly. The key to a draught-free home is filling in those gaps. Use a product such as Bona Gap Master, £6.25 for 310ml. If you're at the beginning of your project, The Old Pine Company sells wood slivers for filling the gaps before you sand your floors. A pack of 100 1m x 6mm or 8mm slivers costs £50. The Energy Saving Trust suggests that insulating properly will save you up to £50 a year on your heating bills. **Charlotte armchair in Ian Mankin Organic Ticking Iris, £845, sofa.com**

9 FIRESIDE COMPANION

A decorative log basket and stylish fireside set are winter essentials. Storing your logs by the fire saves you going out into the cold to restock. If you just have a bare fireplace, fill it with logs for an attractive feature that also helps prevent draughts from above. **Willow log carrier, £60; wrought-iron fireside four-piece set, £120; both Cox & Cox**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

WORDS JENNIFER HASLAM

‘Solid wooden shutters will help keep your bedroom warm in winter and cool in the summer. They’re also great for blocking light for sleeping.’

DENISE BROCK,
HOMES AND GARDENS EDITOR

WELL HINGED

‘Plantation shutters not only keep draughts out, they also have insulating properties,’ says Murray Clark, director of The Shutter Store. ‘For an extra cosy feel, custom colour match your shutters to your room scheme.’ Shutters also provide a more streamlined and contemporary look than curtains. **Shutters in Pink, £165 a sq metre, The Shutter Store. Diamond Berber rug, £175, John Lewis. Bedspread, find similar at rebeccasaix.com. Copper hexagonal table, £397; copper tumbler, £20; copper pierced votive, £12.98; Grey Double Spike linen cushion cover, £35; all Holly’s House. Recycled glass carafe, £15.50 (medium), Folklore. Asymmetric shiny copper lampshade, £65, Rockett St George**

LUXURY IN LEATHER

Take a look at the bestselling Sophia sofa, now available in leather





The sleek and stylish Sophia sofa, exclusive to DFS, is now available in leather in a choice of six colours – Pearl, Grey, Stone, Cream, Mocha and Steel. This versatile model comes in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, so there's something to fit every room. Add a touch of elegant simplicity to your home with one of the many leather and fabric options in soft hues.

From the country's largest sofa company, the Sophia has luxurious, deep seat cushions, providing maximum comfort and support. Extra fibre wrap and soft fibre-filled seat backs create a sofa you can sink into for the ultimate in relaxation.

You can choose a matching or patterned swivel chair, and handy extra space is provided in a special storage footstool (not shown). The Sophia offers a choice of scatter cushion colours and three types of feet – light wood, dark wood and chrome – and is built to withstand the demands of busy family life. As well as leather, fabric options include chenille, plain, multi-coloured woven stripe and cut patterned velvet.

Carpet Earth's Core in Rock, £34.99 a sq metre, House Beautiful collection at Carpentryright. Nova kilim **rug**, £175, Olli Ella. Conran Ryton **floor light**, £229, Marks & Spencer. Chelsea **nest of two tables**, from £299; Chelsea **coffee table**, from £399; all Content by Terence Conran. Stitch **pouf**, £149, Boconcept. Eloise Sorbet **cushion** (with stripes), £55, Twig. Rose Dot **cushions** by Hay, £79 each; Orla Kiely **vase**, £22; all Unique & Unity. Kaleido **tray** in Mint, £19; blue and white porcelain s.b. 44 **mugs**, £39 each; Powder **geometric blanket**, £98; all Smug. Celadon **teapot**, £54, Holly's House. **Books**, from a selection at Persephone Books. **Pink book**, £8, Paperchase

● **Sophia three-seater sofa in leather, £1,595, DFS. To see all the sofa designs, visit dfs.co.uk or housebeautiful.co.uk**

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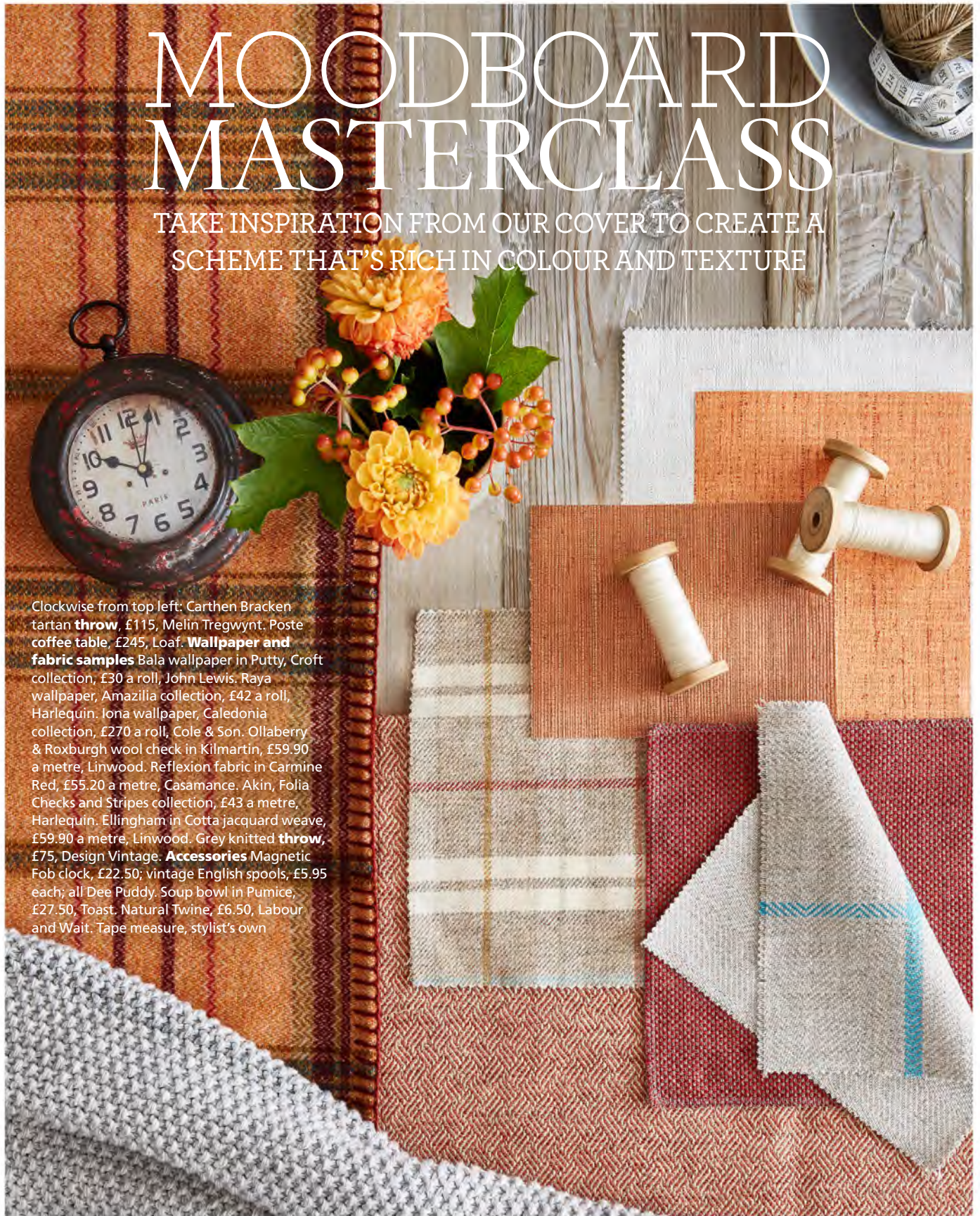
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MOODBOARD MASTERCLASS

TAKE INSPIRATION FROM OUR COVER TO CREATE A
SCHEME THAT'S RICH IN COLOUR AND TEXTURE

Clockwise from top left: Carthen Bracken tartan **throw**, £115, Melin Tregwynt. Poste **coffee table**, £245, Loaf. **Wallpaper and fabric samples** Bala wallpaper in Putty, Croft collection, £30 a roll, John Lewis. Raya wallpaper, Amazilia collection, £42 a roll, Harlequin. Iona wallpaper, Caledonia collection, £270 a roll, Cole & Son. Ollaberry & Roxburgh wool check in Kilmartin, £59.90 a metre, Linwood. Reflexion fabric in Carmine Red, £55.20 a metre, Casamance. Akin, Folia Checks and Stripes collection, £43 a metre, Harlequin. Ellingham in Cotta jacquard weave, £59.90 a metre, Linwood. Grey knitted **throw**, £75, Design Vintage. **Accessories** Magnetic Fob clock, £22.50; vintage English spools, £5.95 each; all Dee Puddy. Soup bowl in Pumice, £27.50, Toast. Natural Twine, £6.50, Labour and Wait. Tape measure, stylist's own



Get the look Introduce tactile wool fabrics for warmth in rich shades of squash, rust and pumpkin. Add pattern and contrast by teaming tartans and herringbone weaves with plain fabrics

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Walls painted in Stock 37 Intelligent matt emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5L, Little Greene. Miss Clementine three-seat **sofa** in Herringbone, £2,365, Sofa Workshop. High Five **bookshelf**, £495; Poste **coffee table**, £245; Guernsey **rug**, £375; Flotsam **mirror**, £245; all Loaf. Vintage wooden **stool**, £65, Design Vintage. Sumptuous sheepskin **rug**, £300, Cox & Cox. Curtains made up in plain weave **linen** in Saffron, £35 a metre, Volga Linen. **On coffee table** Mali ceramic teapot, £49.95; Mali ceramic Slanting jug, £19.95; Mali ceramic mugs, £12.95 each; Mango wood pizza board, £29.95; Rustic leather journal, £24.95; all Nkuku. Grey felt notebook, £28, Design Vintage. **On stool** Terracotta water jug, £55, Folklore. **On mantelpiece (l-r)** Magnetic fob clock, £22.50; number stencil, £7; both Dee Puddy. Chandra wood candlestick (small) £16.95, (large) £19.95; both Nkuku. **On shelving unit: Bottom shelf** Dough bowl, £45; jute basket, £40 for three; both Design Vintage. **First shelf** Jute basket, £40 for three, Design Vintage. Reclaimed shoe last, £24.95 for two, Nkuku. **Second shelf** Audio R2 Radio, £399, Ruark Audio. Vintage English tea tin, £11.95, Dee Puddy. Wooden frame, £10, Sainsbury's. **Third shelf** Wire baskets, £19.95 for four, Design Vintage. Vintage spools, £5.95 each; Vintage English tea tins, £11.95 each; all Dee Puddy. Mali ceramic bowl, £24.95, Nkuku. **Fourth shelf** Salami string, £6.50; Red cotton string, £5.50; both Labour and Wait. Jute basket, £40 for three, Design Vintage. **On top** Male Manikin, £5.95, Cowling & Wilcox. Basket, £23.50, Design Vintage. Throw, £16, Sainsbury's. **On sofa** Burnt Orange velvet cushion cover, £45, Houseology. Charcoal Linen cushion, £45; Grey knitted throw, £75; both Design Vintage.

Living room Select a neutral paint colour with a warm tone as a backdrop for soft furnishings in rich russet shades. Team with classic patterns and choose rustic wooden furniture with simple industrial lines to complement the look



Check it

Combine cushions in autumnal colours such as rust, sage and heather.

Lambswool tartan cushion in Antique Buchanan, £49.95, Bronte by Moon

Industrial piece

Whether it's for serving drinks or displaying pretty blooms and a lamp, a tray table is a useful addition.

Wooden tray table on a burnished metal stand, £95, Within



Reclaim it

Invest in vintage pieces. This pendant, in excellent condition, comes with cable, chain and ceiling plate. **Industrial pendant light by Thorlux, £342, Skinflint Design**



Wrap up

Brighten up a sofa with a vibrant throw. **Wool mix throw in Rust, £85, Living by Christiane Lemieux at House of Fraser**

Step up

Lean this charming industrial pine display unit up against an alcove or end wall for stylish extra storage. **Malham ladder shelf display unit, £477, Artisanti**



Mini-me

Choose a design classic on a smaller scale.

At 40cm high, it's a perfect reading light.

Anglepoise Type 75 mini lamp in Alpine White, £95, Design 55



Have a seat

A classic sofa is upholstered in a traditional plaid fabric updated in an on-trend shade of grey. **Saturday two-and-a-half seat sofa in Peregrine Plaid, £1,140, sofa.com**

Natural choice

Keep your tootsies toasty with this natural-coloured super-soft rug.

Goatskin rug, £140, also comes in black, Nordic House



Ceramic charm

Small but perfectly formed, this can be used for milk or to hold fresh blooms. **Sea-green and Terracotta earthenware jug, £18.50, Pastel Lane**



Write stuff

This Fairtrade A5 notebook is handmade by artisans in Rajasthan, **£14.95, Decorator's Notebook**

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Clockwise from bottom right
White Brick wallpaper, £32 a roll, Rockett St George. **Fringe hand towel**, £24, The Linen Works. **Country wooden spoons**, £5 for three, John Lewis. **Nordic dinner plate**, £10; **Nordic bowl**, £8.50; both Raft. **Linen tablecloth**, from £80, The Linen Works. **Fabric and wallpaper samples** Japanese Tree wallpaper in Graphite, £23 a roll, John Lewis. Drift linen in Mussel (dark grey), £43.90 a metre, Linwood. Ageo Chevron in Sea Salt (white), £96 a metre, Kravet. Tuffet claypaint, £35 for 2.5L, Earthborn. Rovelli Forita in Silver, £26 a metre; Dorton fabric in Cashew, £50.50 a metre; both Voyage Decoration. Rustling fabric (in dark grey), £27.30 a metre, Camengo. Mitton flower fabric in Natural, £27 a metre, Clarke & Clarke. **Roll of string**, stylist's own. Eddingtons copper **gingerbread cookie cutters**, £4 each, John Lewis. Slate **placemat**, £18 for four, Garden Trading

Get the look A soft palette of pale greys, creamy whites and fawn is ideal for a country-style kitchen. For a modern look, pair plain linen with subtle printed fabrics and add highlights of copper and dark slate

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Table, £1,599; **bench**, £499; Blue stripe **cushion**, £35; **runner**, £26; **napkins**, £16 for four; slate **placemats** £22 for two; Pebble **dinnerware**, from £6; Elska **dinnerware**, from £6; Mono Mark large **bowl**, £40; recycled **hi-ball glasses**, £6; recycled **carafe** £15; **soup tureen**, £20; marble **Pebble board**, £45; all Gray & Willow at House of Fraser



Modern country kitchen Contrast warm-toned wood furniture with bare floorboards and metro tiles. Accessorise with copper and use linen napkins to add texture. Finish with earthenware crockery in subtle stripes CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE



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Glossy finish

This large metal painted pendant lamp comes in nine colours including this on-trend grey. **Factoria Hanging factory lamp, £185, Out There Interiors**



Metal element

Copper cookware looks amazing in both modern and traditional kitchens. **Prices start at £60 for a milk pan and go up to £125 for a casserole dish, John Lewis**



Super server

With bright neon edging, this chopping board is smart enough to be used as a serving platter. **Acacia chopping board with mint edging, £19.50, Berry Red**



Natural material

Prevent hot items marking the table with these foam-backed placemats made from Scottish slate. **Just Slate placemats, £22 for two, Amara**



Unique touch

Pick some pretty bowls with subtle pattern to add interest. **Hand-painted ceramic grey stripe bowl by Tine K Home, £12.95, Idyll Home**



Second life

Upcycled from reclaimed timber, this table has been distressed with layers of stain and paint for an authentic finish. **Dunham dining table, from £599, Out & Out Original**



Show it off

Display storage jars on a handy shelf. **Ekeby Jarpen/Ekby Robert white wall shelf, £18, Ikea**



Drink up

Sleek and simple, this cup is part of a collection including plates, bowls and teacups. **Royal Dolton Bread Street mug in Slate, £7, Fishpools**



Comfy seat

Inspired by Hungarian grain sacks, this linen cushion comes filled with luxury duck feathers and has a concealed zip. **Grain Stripe Indigo cushion, £40, Ian Mankin**



Get baking!

Super-stylish and with fantastic features, this stainless-steel range cooker will make cooking a piece of cake. **Steel Sintesi 100, £2,820, Steel Cucine**

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1 Eloise Quinel cushion, £49, Twig
2 Hudson tray, £18, Habitat 3 Kinto
Couleur tea for one (pot and cup), £50;
True Grace Village Classic candle (on

journal), £25; both Amara 4 Pair of glasses,
stylist's own 5 Diptyque candle snuffer,
£18, John Lewis 6 Writing As Therapy
journal, £15; pencil from Psychology of

Colour set, £18; both School of Life
7 Ditsy grey and yellow reversible double
duvet cover set, £40, Habitat 8 Eye mask,
£50, Otis Batterbee 9 Deep Sleep Pillow



Spray, £16, This Works **10 Bud white porcelain and metal touch table lamp**, £45, Habitat **11 Menu Norm Tumbler alarm clock** in Moss Green, £69, Amara

12 BioEars silicone earplugs, £4.99 for three pairs, Boots **13 John Lewis Triangles throw** in Citrine, £30, John Lewis **14 Pyjama set**, £95, Yawn **15 Cashmere**

hot water bottle, £79, Johnstons of Elgin **16 Kindle Paperwhite**, £109.95, John Lewis

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

COLOUR confident

Industry experts explain how to use gorgeous autumn berry shades



CREME DE CASSIS

Purple tones are perfect for cosying up the home

Dark red liqueurs and stained berry hands have inspired the sumptuous Smashed Berry (above). Use in a room that's naturally dark to make it more intimate, and try an eggshell finish on skirtings and architraves. It looks fab next to Rainy Slate or Darkest Tarn.

ALISON HILL CONRAN

Inspired by the Yorkshire Moors, Inglenook is a sophisticated mix of lilac and grey. Shades of purple work well together, so this one complements our lighter Lily Lily Rose. Calming and gentle, this colour will warm north-facing rooms.

CATHRYN HELSBY
EARTHBOEN



Smashed Berry, £36 for 2.5L matt emulsion, Paint by Conran



Inglenook, £35 for 2.5L Claypaint, Earthborn



ROSEHIP RED

Deep pink berries punctuate the stark landscape with colour

The colour of maple leaves and the last hedgerow berries, plush and vibrant Magenta (above) gives warmth, depth and a welcoming richness that works well in any light. Pair it with paler pink dilutions of itself or with deep leaf greens for a snug feeling.

IAN WEST LAKELAND PAINTS

Reflecting the trend for dramatic colours in the home, earthy Fire Pink is a toasty shade that's perfect in a bedroom or hallway. Use in period properties with exposed beams and stone floors, or in a modern setting with charcoal and white prints.

REBECCA CRAIG
SANDERSON



Magenta, £29.46 for 2.5L Chalkboard wall paint, Lakeland Paints



Fire Pink, £39 for 2.5L emulsion, Sanderson

BERRY SOPHISTICATED

In the midst of winter give your rooms some warmth with berry tones and hedgerow hues. Keep it simple and choose one fresh, vibrant colour then offset it with accessories in pale, cool shades.



RASPBERRY ROUGE

Add a rosy glow with hues inspired by faded flowers

Sophisticated pinks such as Rose Pink (above) provide a soft backdrop in homes of all periods and are fantastic with greys, pale greens and natural wood – a classic Georgian combination. Combine with pure white rather than off-white.

EDWARD BULMER
POTS OF PAINT

Subtle and soft, Heather is an elegant, feminine colour that's perfect for living rooms and bedrooms. Ideal on its own or with deep plums, warm reds, sky blues, soft yellows and pretty greens. A colour to make you feel calm and happy.

VANESSA GALLOWAY
KONIG COLOURS



Rose Pink, £40 for 2.5L
matt chalky finish, Edward
Bulmer Pots of Paint



Heather, £42 for 2.5L low
sheen emulsion, Konig
Colours



BOLD BLACKBERRY

Create drama with walls in a statement deep and moody shade

Carragheen, a luxuriously dark purple, has deep blueberry and damson tones so it works beautifully alongside bold blues, lilacs and blue-toned, dusky pinks. Use with gold, bronze and taupe in boudoir-style bedrooms and deeply relaxing bathrooms.

ROB WHITAKER
FIRED EARTH

A gorgeous blue with warmth and intimacy, Juniper Ash (above) gives a feeling of serious elegance. It would look wonderful with antique silver and mirrors and makes me want to sip sloe gin by the fireside on winter evenings.

DAVID MOTTERSHEAD
LITTLE GREENE



Carragheen, £35.50 for
2.5L matt emulsion,
Fired Earth



Juniper Ash 115, £37 for
2.5L absolute matt
emulsion, Little Greene

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6 WAYS TO... REVAMP YOUR DINING ROOM

Expert advice from interior designer and TV presenter Julia Kendell

1 CHOOSE THE BEST LOCATION

When deciding which space to designate as the dining area, bear in mind its distance from the kitchen – you don't want to have to walk too far when you're serving food. Sometimes unusual spaces can work very successfully, and rooms that don't get much light during the day can come to life in the evening with clever lighting and decoration. It's easier to create a cosy feel in a smaller room, but make sure there's space behind chairs at the table so everyone can move around comfortably.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Bowl, £10.20; small plate, £14.90; large plate, £37; glasses, from £13 each; TVIS cutlery, £176.80 for 16 pieces; candles, £2 each; candleholders, £21.70 each; tealight holders, £7.90 each; vases, £15 for three; tablecloth, £109.50; all Broste

2 SET THE SCENE

Well-planned lighting is an essential element when creating a welcoming space. Overhead lights should be dimmable so you can easily alter the mood. Make sure you install a good quality dimmer switch – Universal Lighting has a useful guide to choosing the right one.

When positioning pendant lamps above the dining table, ensure shades hang just high enough to allow uninterrupted sight lines across the table, but not too high that they have no connection to the furniture. Why not try a group of dark lampshades with gilded metallic interiors suspended low over the table centre or a statement crystal chandelier to create a gorgeous glow?

Consider wall lights too. Candle sconces are particularly effective and I love the contrast of black candles against mirrored sconces.

3 CREATE A FOCAL POINT

To create a dramatic space use a rich, dark colour throughout, such as navy – this year's on-trend favourite – or an attention-grabbing wallpaper print. Large-scale murals are also a great way to personalise the room. Take a look at surfaceview.co.uk for inspiration and ideas.

If your style is understated, you could create a panelled wall with routed MDF panels and paint them a neutral colour such as grey or a linen shade of white for a smart yet sophisticated effect. Try easipanel.co.uk.

4 SORT THE SEATING

Comfort is a key factor when considering dining chairs. Upholstered designs are preferable, with supportive backs and arms if there's space around the table. Choose a fabric that's stain-resistant



Table and chairs, £799; jug, £35; dinnerware from £8 a piece; candles, £22 each; tea towels, £14 for three; all Dickens & Jones at House of Fraser

or wipeable, or have loose covers made that can be easily removed for cleaning.

If space is at a premium, benches are an ideal alternative to individual chairs as they can be pushed neatly under the table when not in use.

For special occasions such as Christmas you could embellish seats with ribbon tied around the top and fastened at the back with seasonal foliage or a cluster of baubles.

5 CONSIDER FURNITURE AND STORAGE

If space allows, include a dresser or sideboard to store items you only use for dining. This also ensures more precious pieces such as crystal and fine china are kept away from the everyday hustle and bustle of the kitchen.

Opt for a shallow piece so it doesn't take up too much floor area. If your dining room is small, mirrored and gloss finishes will appear less bulky and reflect the space around, making the room seem bigger.

6 DRESS TO IMPRESS

To set the scene invest in a few seasonal table elements such as pastel-coloured napkins in spring and metallic tealight holders in winter.

Table settings should reflect the overall theme and style of the space and can be dressed up or down to suit the occasion. Search out coloured linen napkins, interesting placeholders and quirky table decorations. Combine different materials such as glass, wood and metals for substance and interest.

Table centrepieces shouldn't be so tall or large that they get in the way of conversation across the table. You could also position generous-sized floral arrangements and tall candles on a sideboard or storage console to add some height and drama.



Broadway quilted placemat, £15; Elca napkin, £60 for four; both Tori Murphy. Round plate, £19, Branksome China

I love the atmosphere a warm home creates

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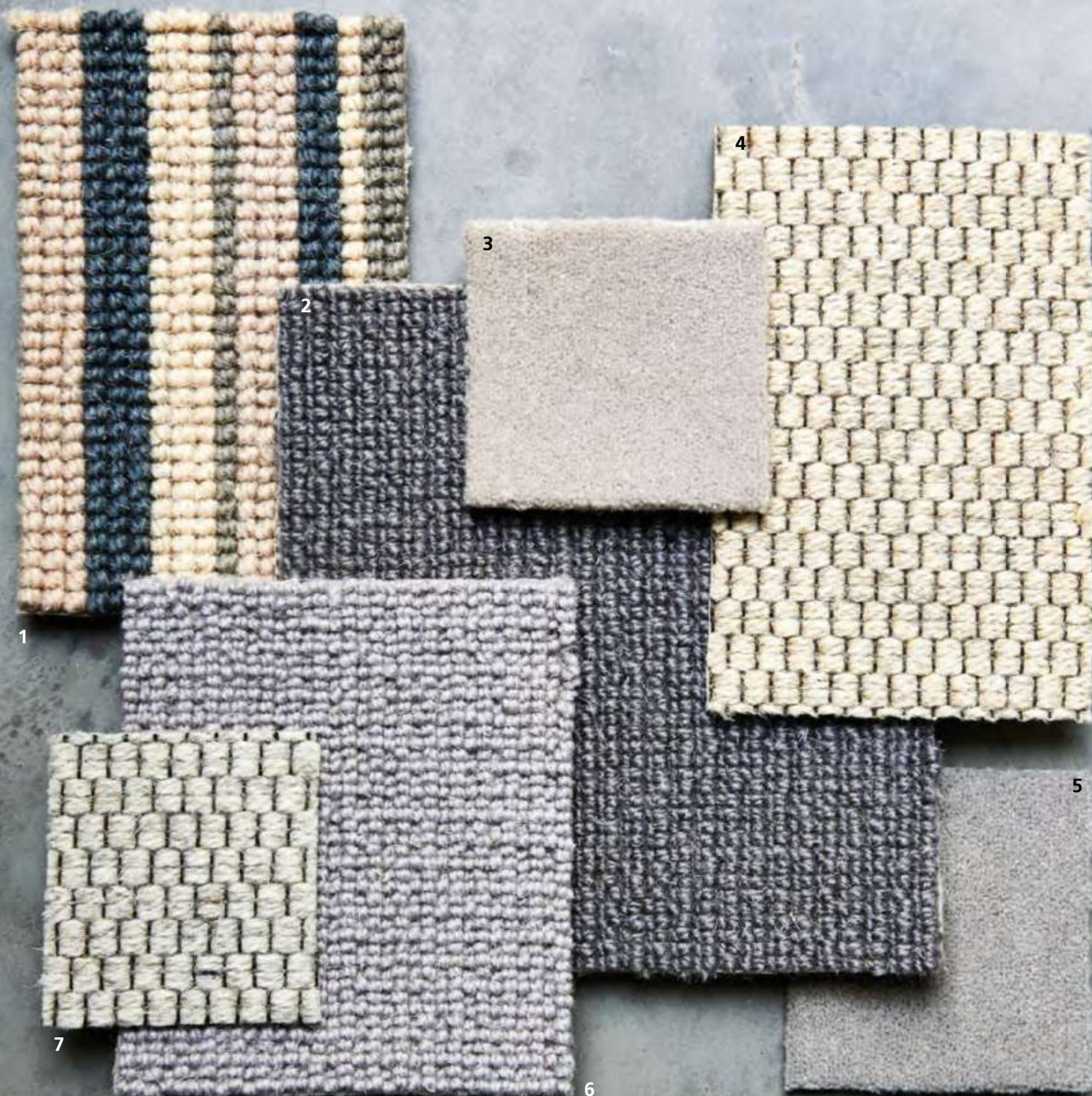
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FLOOR SHOW

New! Our stylish collection of carpets, rugs, vinyls, laminates and wood flooring will transform every area of your home. Exclusively at Carpetright



There are six designs in the House Beautiful carpet collection at Carpetright, including striped and textured styles

1 Hopscotch, Residence collection, striped chunky loop pile, 100 per cent wool, £32.99 a sq metre **2 Islay**, The Isles collection, taking its inspiration from the hues and natural contours of our most evocative islands, is available in nine shades, 100 per cent wool, £34.99 a sq metre **3 Stone**, Nature collection, 12 sophisticated shades that bring to mind the beauty of the countryside, in 100 per cent wool with a fine velvet finish, £49.99 a sq metre **4 Holbeck**, Leeds collection, one of 10 shades in an urban contemporary flat-weave texture, 100 per cent wool, Scotchgard treated to aid stain-resistance, £24.99 a sq metre **5 Mineral**, Nature collection, £49.99 a sq metre **6 Taransay**, The Isles collection, £34.99 a sq metre **7 Hunslet**, Leeds collection, £24.99 a sq metre. All from the House Beautiful collection at Carpetright

ELEGANT LOOKS

In 100 per cent wool, this chic striped design, Residence, creates a stunning focal point in a living room or hallway. The hardwearing textured loop pile is perfect for high-traffic areas. **Residence**, shown here in Teal Punch, is £32.99 a sq metre and available in five colours



With 14 designs in the House Beautiful rug collection at Carpetright, there's a wide selection of both plain and patterned options

From left to right: **Horizon** in Greys, 120cm x 170cm, £129; **Baked Sand** in Fog, 120cm x 170cm, £249; **Aurora** in Natural White, 120cm x 170cm, £279, also available as 160cm x 230cm, £439; **Horizon** in Light Charcoal/Mustard, 120cm x 170cm, £129; **Mountain** in Duck Egg, 120cm x 170cm, £89; **Daybreak** in Blues/Greens, 120cm x 170cm, £129, also available as 160cm x 230cm, £229.

On floor: **Desert** in Flannel, 120cm x 170cm, £199, also available as 160cm x 230cm, £299. Other colourways are also available



CONTEMPORARY COMFORT

The House Beautiful rug collection at Carpetright combines easy-to-use neutrals with accents of punchy colour in stylish hues. This strong geometric **Horizon** rug, 120cm x 170cm, £129, shown here in Greys, adds a contemporary touch that works well with the simple shapes and clean lines of the button-backed armchair and black lacquered side table



The Artisan engineered wood range from Kahrs, in the House Beautiful collection at Carpetright, has a simple glueless click system and is treated with a matt lacquer for a stylish, hardwearing finish. At 15mm thick with a 3.5mm oak veneer, all come with a 30-year guarantee.

1 Light Ash, £44.99 a sq metre **2 Limed Oak**, £49.99 a sq metre **3 Dark Oak**, £49.99 a sq metre **4 Natural Ash**, £44.99 a sq metre **5 Natural Oak**, £54.99 a sq metre **6 Deep Ebony**, £49.99 a sq metre **7 Nearly White**, £54.99 a sq metre



PHOTOGRAPHY RACHEL WHITING. STYLING KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES



SMART LIVING

Team a plain, textured carpet with dramatic indigo walls for a contemporary look that works well in a home office or hallway. The flatweave finish, available in rib or cobble style in a selection of neutral shades, is Scotchgard treated to aid stain-resistance. Holbeck, Leeds collection, £24.99 a sq metre, House Beautiful at Carpetright

- Flooring collection available in selected Carpetright stores. For more information, visit carpetright.co.uk or housebeautiful.co.uk
- Find details of the other products shown in this feature in our stockist page at the back of the issue

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Although this project is suitable for beginners, crocheting with a cotton rope is more difficult than using cotton yarn. It gives a wonderful texture, though, so don't be put off!

● Find instructions for this project at housebeautiful.co.uk. Just search 'crochet bottle vase'

● See other designs from Stella Melgrati at etsy.com/uk/shop/theyarnkitchen

BETTER THAN BESPOKE

Felt maker, knitter and crocheter Stella Melgrati uses a milk bottle covered with chunky cotton rope in two contrasting colours to create a crocheted vase

CELEBRATE **AMAZING** TRANSFORMATIONS

A winner of this year's competition, sponsored by DFS, this bungalow has been revamped with brilliant use of budget, clever planning and fabulous design

HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE Sue Sampson, 65, and her husband Lloyd, 69

THE PROPERTY A detached bungalow built in 1954, with three bedrooms and two bathrooms, in Chislehurst, Kent. The couple bought the property in October 2013 for £470,000. They spent £180,000 on a complete renovation of the house and it's now believed to be worth between £850,000 and £900,000



Sue Sampson
in her shiny
new kitchen



DOWNSIZE DELIGHT

Sue and Lloyd Sampson took on a tired 1950s bungalow and created a light and spacious home

WORDS STEPHANIE SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID GILES



Using a neutral colour for most of the units from Benchmarx Joinery was deliberate as Sue wanted the option to change the colour of the room in the future

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Underfloor heating warms floor tiles from Tiles Porcelain, while the woodburning Stovax Riva stove creates an even cosier feel



With both of their grown-up children long moved into their own homes, Sue and Lloyd Sampson were ready for a change. 'We'd lived in our four-bedroom semi in Chislehurst for 30 years and didn't want to leave family and friends, but we didn't need a house that size. Two years ago we spotted a bungalow and snapped it up. It needed modernisation but at that point even we didn't realise how far we'd go with it,' says Sue.

The couple talked through their ideas with their son Scott, a structural technician and draughtsman in the building industry. 'That was handy, as he was able to draw up the plans for us, although we went through so many changes I'm sure he wondered what he'd let himself in for!'

Not rushing into things, the couple wrote down a wish list, which included an ensuite, utility room and proper garage. 'The big problem with the bungalow was at the back, where an extension had been put on at a later date across the width of the property. It was two metres above ground level, had a bedroom marooned at its centre, and was set on stilts that made Lloyd feel it looked like a caravan site.'

After exploring various possibilities, the couple and their son decided to make the whole of the downstairs – apart from the two bedrooms and shower room – open plan. They took down the internal walls, and also used the loft space to provide a self-contained suite. When it came to deciding on the look, Sue, who usually looks after the inside, and

Lloyd, a keen gardener, were in complete agreement. 'Our aim was to have a contemporary and minimalist style, with lots of light and space. We have a timeshare in Hilton Head, South Carolina, and we wanted to bring that feeling into the property. Lloyd's big request was a cathedral-style window at the back, all the way up; they're popular in America. We paid £1,000 extra to have the section in the loft all glass. It gives such a fantastic view down the garden.'

Finding the right builder was essential and Guy Ableman of Ableman Services was picked after Sue and Lloyd saw him working on a neighbour's house. 'We went and inspected his other work and found he really understood what we wanted to do, as well as suggesting ideas of his own. He's a very able man – so well named.'

With the plans through, the couple moved out for the six-month build in July 2014, returning for Christmas. 'There was no way we could live there while the build was going on, and our old next-door neighbour kindly let us live with her for the duration. I was the project manager and was on site every other day to deal with queries. To put the steels in for the loft, they removed all the joists, which sounds dramatic, but gave us an extra 10 inches in head height,' explains Sue.

This year's been all about the finish and the details, and people are amazed at the change. 'From the front it looks like a stylish bungalow, rendered in white with

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

HERE'S TO THE 'TESTER POTTERS'



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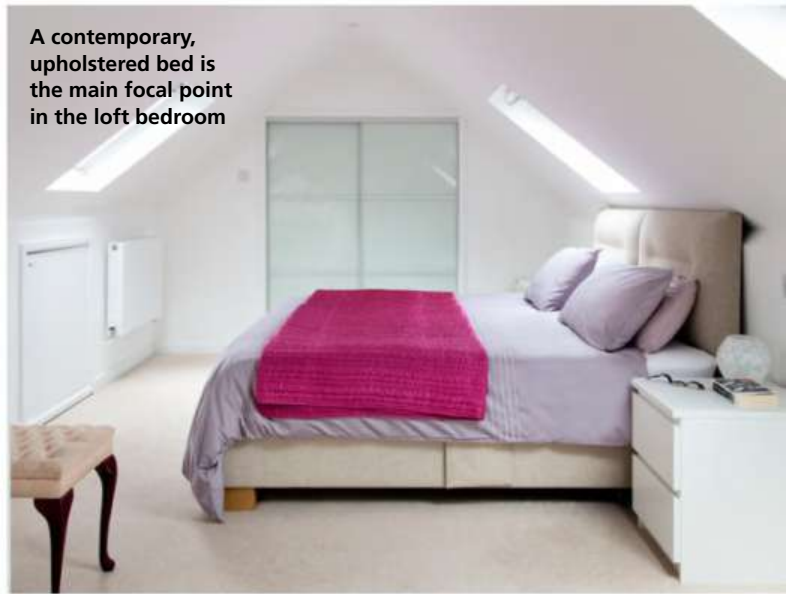
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Using leftover wood, the couple's builder created a section of shelving that contains all Sue's cookery books as well as an integral wine rack



A contemporary, upholstered bed is the main focal point in the loft bedroom



For the loft bathroom, Sue bought sanitaryware from Better Bathrooms, taps by Hudson Reed and tiles from Tile Giant



smart new roof tiles and grey doors and windows, but when you get to the back you see the wow factor. Our daughter Kirsten was stunned as she lives up in Lincolnshire and didn't see all the stages. We're so thrilled at how it's turned out.' **HB**

● Sue and Lloyd win £2,500 of DFS prizes. The judging panel comprised FMB chief executive Brian Berry, designer Lisa Stickley, Kellie Wyles from DFS and House Beautiful Editor Julia Goodwin

WHAT IT COST

Building costs.....	£130,000
Doors and windows	£13,000
Kitchen	£19,000
Bathrooms	£6,000
Stove	£5,500
Landscaping.....	£4,000
Tiles	£1,000
Furniture.....	£1,500
TOTAL.....	£180,000



Sue and Lloyd's RENOVATION TIPS

- ✱ Think big. As our project grew, we decided that as we were only planning to do this once, we'd do it right and use the highest quality materials we could afford.
- ✱ Live in the house for a few months first, as it can take this long to decide how you want it to work for you.
- ✱ Look at other people's houses to get ideas and inspiration.
- ✱ Buy tons of magazines and make a scrap folder of any bits and pieces that appeal to you.
- ✱ Don't be afraid to keep changing the plans until you get them exactly right. Our poor son had to amend the plans and drawings about five times until we were all satisfied.
- ✱ If you've basically pulled a house apart and rebuilt it, paint it in neutral colours, which are easy to touch up, as the plaster will crack when settling and you can always change the colour later.
- ✱ In a house with lots of floor tiles, it's worth going for underfloor heating. It's an efficient way to heat the rooms and it will be cold underfoot otherwise.



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Kapok Wood Cement, a glazed porcelain tile with a wood-effect finish

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Slate-effect Zelve has an almost metallic lustre

Topps Tiles' collection spans a whole world of design, with inspirations ranging from the ceramic art of ancient Morocco (Parthian collection, main picture), to the ground-breaking technology behind on-trend ranges such as Zelve and Kapok Wood Cement (left and above). But one thing they all have in common is Topps Tiles' unbeatable blend of quality, value and convenience.

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PLAN TO PERFECTION

Clever fittings and good design are key to storing
your belongings and enhancing the space



Glass doors that slide to save space conceal a multitude of flexible wardrobe storage options. Pax wardrobe with Innfjorden doors, £693; Alex desk, £120; Besta shelf unit with Lappviken white doors, £60; all Ikea

Streamlining your space with sleek storage will make your home look bigger and work more efficiently. By taking everything into consideration, it's easier to create an organised system so that putting things away and finding them again comes naturally.

Layering storage

Take a tour around your home and ask yourself when you last used particular items – the less often they're required, the less accessible they need to be; Christmas decorations are a good example. It's also easy to get into the habit of storing items that are never used, so a trip to the charity shop or local dump might be in order.

After that, you can start to plan layers of storage, with everyday items close to where they're used, and holiday gear or ski equipment, for example, tucked further away. If you're lucky enough to have a loft or basement, opt for utilitarian sturdy metal shelving that's practical rather than pretty. Otherwise, get clever with underbed storage, deep cupboards and floor-to-ceiling shelving and cabinets.

The bigger picture

If you're refitting a new home or giving a much-loved one a makeover, this is the time to think about permanent solutions such as fitted interiors tailored to your needs.

In a hunt for storage potential, every area, from box rooms to bathrooms, living rooms to utility areas, should be looked at. Even circulation spaces such as corridors and hallways, often a dumping ground for coats and bags, can be transformed with made-to-measure or off-the-peg solutions. Look up, and consider whether high shelves and cupboards could ease the situation. The advantage of this overall plan is that storage can be co-ordinated in design, finish and colour, for a harmonious look throughout.



Stay safe, storing only lighter-weight items above head height, and heavy ones ideally at waist level

Show and tell

Not everything in a home needs to be hidden. 'Storage should be practical and fun and, wherever possible, easy on the eye,' says Alison Cork, founder of Within. 'I've been using various models of decorative metal loo roll holders (available cheap in pound stores) to display bracelets, rings and belts.'

Favourite possessions have real impact when displayed to advantage on shelves or in cabinets. In the living room, bespoke bookcases can supply a wall of open and closed shelving, neatly filling awkward gaps or odd angles. Organising books by colour and size creates a display in itself, but shelving also provides a home for a favourite vase or a framed photo or print, especially if it's well lit.

Make sure lighting is concealed, even when you're sitting down. 'If you can see the light source it can ruin the effect, so lights may need to

be recessed, or have either a lip or small downstand,' says Sally Storey, design director of John Cullen Lighting. 'In a large shelving unit, lighting every other niche creates a chequerboard effect.'

ABOVE: Tailor a media and storage wall to suit your space with this system of shelves and sliding-door cupboards. Jesse Online Wall Unit 107, £4,300, Go Modern

Focus on furniture

★ Walls of storage precisely fitted to the space are the solution for homes that have alcoves or sloping ceilings, where they'll make the most of every last inch.

★ Modular furniture, consisting of individual pieces designed to work together, has a similar effect to bespoke solutions, yet it's more adaptable if your needs change and if you move you can take it with you. Choose a range with plenty of size options.

★ Look out for vintage shelves and cupboards that can be upcycled with a coat of paint to add a fun focal point to a room.

★ Flat-fronted doors are less fussy than those with architraves. Opt for handleless door designs with pressure catches to conceal storage behind a 'wall'.

★ If you don't need much full-length wardrobe hanging space, opt for internal drawers fitted below a rail. Or fit two levels of hanging rails, where the upper one pulls down using a handle.

★ Avoid having lots of small separate pieces of furniture dotted around the room. It will give the impression of a cluttered space.

★ Floating shelves, with hidden brackets look neat and can be finished to match walls.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Turn an underused area into a bright, practical workplace, with cabinetry in a mix of bright white and pale wood finishes that provides plenty of display space. Understairs home office concept, from £3,000, Neville Johnson

Using colour

Matching the colour of furniture to the walls is a sure-fire way to make storage cupboards fade into the background, and it's helped along by the current trend for pale, neutral schemes.

'The light-grey finishes that have dominated 2015 are now being seen on work surfaces, bedroom furniture and in the living room, acting as an excellent base for other neutral shades or even pops of bright, vibrant colour,' says Helen Reeks, creative development manager at Neville Johnson.

'Throughout 2016, this vibrancy will start to make way for softer, less austere tones, with inky blues used to complement soft neutrals.'

Stress-free living

Although the TV might now be up on the wall, home entertainment still has an impact on our living spaces.

'As much as we now want technology in our homes, we don't want it to dominate our lives,' says Helen Reeks from Neville Johnson. 'Many of our customers are requesting cabinetry that can hide DVD and digital TV boxes.'

If you still love your CDs, vinyl or books, get them up on walls and keep your floors clear. 'A mix of open and closed storage creates the illusion of space in smaller rooms,' says Helen. 'Open storage can trick the eye into thinking the space is bigger, by displaying the wall as well as giving the illusion of height.'

Thinking minimally

A move towards minimalist living has been taken to stark extremes by some, but with a

two-pronged attack, firstly by policing the amount of stuff we hold on to, and secondly by storing the remainder away behind closed doors, clear surfaces are a real possibility.

'Diehard fans of the minimalist aesthetic might want to take a Spartan approach, but that's not necessary if you plan your storage carefully,' says Rebecca Winward, author of *Everything in its Place* (£19.99, Ryland Peters & Small).

'That said, you might want to consider measures such as whittling your clothes down to a capsule wardrobe, ditching kitchen equipment that never sees the light of day, switching from print to e-reader books and choosing MP3 music and streamed video over CDs and DVDs,' says Rebecca.

Keep clutter out of sight

A beautifully organised home won't stay that way for long without regular tidying and de-junking strategies.

Make it easy to deal with items immediately by putting your recycling containers close to where they're needed. For example, place a shredder next to your home-office desk to prevent paper piling up and put recycling bins next to the general kitchen bin to encourage instant sorting. A basket or bag can be placed in the wardrobe, ready for clothes for the charity shop.

A regular date marked on your planner or a reminder on your phone will help prompt decluttering sessions.

If things are really getting on top of you, you could enlist a friend to help you sift through your stuff, and you can reciprocate the favour later.



This fitted furniture range creates a sleek look that makes the most of every space, Portfolio from bathstore

Organise your bathroom

- ★ A tidy bathroom should be a relaxing place to spend time and planning sufficient storage will ensure it is.
- ★ If you're starting from scratch, plan in enough cupboard space for everything from toiletries and cleaning materials to toilet rolls so you can leave surfaces clear of clutter. Fitted furniture, such as a design from bathstore (above) will make the best use of your room and maximise storage. It will also give a streamlined look that will increase the feeling of space.
- ★ If you change only one thing, a new basin with a cupboard underneath will improve the bathroom enormously, both visually and practically. A deep drawer unit means bottles and lotions are close by and everything is easy to find.
- ★ Make good use of the height of the walls with tall, slimline furniture that doesn't impinge on the floor space too much. Fix shelves high up to stack towels; a tall freestanding towel ladder is a good option for holding the ones in use. Make sure surfaces are all moistureproof.
- ★ In an existing bathroom where space is short, consider storing supplies of towels out of the room into a bedroom or hall cupboard nearby to free up space.

Don't miss a trick. Fit shoe racks, clothes hooks, rails or storage baskets to the backs of doors

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** ON PAGE 146

ULTIMATE GUIDE TO STORAGE BUYS

Create a streamlined space with these savvy solutions



Have a good sort out and put anything you haven't worn for a year out for charity, recycling or selling on eBay. You should be left with a capsule wardrobe that can be mixed and matched as needed, which takes up less space. Pax wardrobe, £649, Ikea

WARDROBE TRICKS

- * Go for made-to-measure fitted furniture to maximise awkward areas such as sloping or low ceilings, narrow spaces and alcoves.
- * Consider what your essentials are then install storage solutions to suit. Include hanging rails and racks, pullouts, drawers, dividers and stackable boxes as needed.
- * Concealing clothes behind doors creates a clutter-free environment. Sliding wardrobes are great for compact bedrooms, while a mirrored finish helps create a feeling of space.
- * Push-to-open doors without handles enhance a flush finish, while high-gloss materials reflect light around the room and dark timbers give a sophisticated look.



1



2



3

1 Furniture in one colour theme helps to create a streamlined effect, especially in a neutral shade. Artisan fitted furniture, from £5,000, John Lewis of Hungerford **2 Having separate pockets**, boxes and hanging racks for shoes, hats, clothes and accessories will help you keep your space more organised. The Greystone collection from Neatfreak starts at £15 for a three-shelf organiser **3 Use the landing or hallway** to create bespoke storage, freeing up space in the bedroom. Interior designer Barbara Genda designed and installed two 800mm-deep units in a passageway in this home, on both sides of the space, for £4,800

Pare back your wardrobe and you'll soon create a streamlined space. The fewer garments you have, the less clutter there will be

CLEVER SOLUTIONS

- * Use areas that are often wasted space, such as the gap above the doorway, in corners and beneath the bed. Look for hooks, peg rails, pigeonhole boxes and vacuum pack bags to store clothes and accessories.
- * Furniture on wheels is ideal for creating added space in an instant, as you can slide the storage unit into another room.
- * Keep dressing table surfaces as clear as possible to prevent a cluttered feel.



1



2



3

1 Ottomans are ideal for bulky items and seasonal clothes. Choose one that complements the colour of the bed so it appears to take up less space. Black Spirius design, £1,164, Jensen **2 Clear acrylic storage boxes** create a feeling of space as the sightlines are extended through the box and out the other side. They're also practical as you can see clearly what's inside. Transparent Treasure Trunk, £580, French Bedroom Company **3 Use wall space** to hang coats, scarves and bags, leaving plenty of room in wardrobes and keeping the look sleek and streamlined. Scribble coat rack, £40, Headsprung

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WORK AND PLAY

- * Consider how much media you need to store, the minimum you want on display, and how easy you require the access to be. Some consoles can be hidden in drawers or cupboards while other gadgets are better left out.
- * If you're combining open shelving, make sure only the essentials are on display and use a variety of boxes to keep things in order – clearly labelled if needs be.
- * A carpenter will be able to create a bespoke solution to suit your space and it can be a more cost-effective way of getting exactly what you want.
- * If you need to store your office work at home, invest in some new box files and attractive trays to make it feel more like part of the home.



1 Keep it contemporary with vertically-hung cupboards combined with shelves and a series of wall panels to cleverly conceal media cables. Novamobili Diagona wall unit in Dove Grey, £3,860, Go Modern **2 A dedicated media unit** will allow you to catch up on work at home but has doors so you can shut it out of sight and retain a relaxed feel in your living space. Second Nature's Fitzroy design costs from £1,000 and features a cranberry coloured interior **3 Open shelving** enables you to combine TV and book storage, keeping everything within easy reach. Kubika matt lacquer modular unit with drop-leaf opening, £2,530, Natuzzi

Make sure any wall-mounted media storage is securely fixed to the wall as it will be holding a heavy weight

TV UNITS

- * Store children's DVDs at a low level in their own dedicated drawer so they're able to reach them easily.
- * If opting for a sleek, minimal TV stand, consider where you're going to put the DVD player, games console and any other gadgets.
- * Matt lacquered units have a modern feel while wooden designs are ideal for more classic schemes.
- * Measure the space before you buy and double check it's suitable for the size of TV.



1 Choose a unit with different-sized drawers for the remote as well as any DVDs or console accessories. Grande TV unit in a high-gloss white finish (H48cm x W180cm x D46cm), £399, Furniture Village **2 Mobile units** can be wheeled into different positions, freeing up space when needed. Banshee black three-door glass sideboard, £895, Habitat **3 Keep unsightly cables** tucked away by choosing a media unit with cable holes in the back. Limoges TV stand in reclaimed timber with a two-tone finish (H60cm x W120cm x D42cm), £219, Fishpools

HOME LIBRARY

- * Pick materials and colours that tone with the room for a streamlined feel; for a restful look stick to natural or neutral shades. White works in any interior and can be classic or contemporary depending on the style chosen.
- * If you like the idea of introducing colour, go for matt finishes rather than high gloss as they will blend in better. You can always add a burst of vibrant colour with the books you display.
- * Open-fronted units with different-height boxes create more flexibility in terms of book sizes.
- * Consider kitchen companies if you're looking for an open-plan solution, as they often have matching ranges of living room furniture.

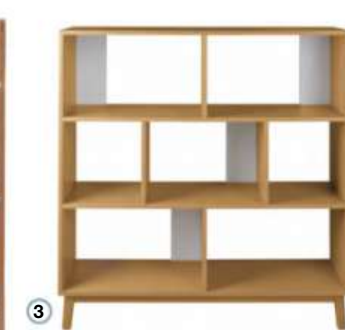


1 Cubby hole box shelving keeps the floor clear, which in turn creates a feeling of space. Inside horizontal wall unit, from £220, Calligaris
2 Multipurpose storage works well in any room and is ideal for open-plan living, uniting a living area and kitchen. Schmidt kitchens has a bespoke Living range that comes in a huge range of colours and finishes with sliding doors and various storage options. Kitchens start at £10,000
3 Different-height shelf options enable you to build a customised book storage solution to suit your space. Meda is a wall system from Boconcept that has a contemporary look while being ultra-practical too. It's priced £2,299

Spend as much as you can budget for on good quality furniture as it will last longer and won't buckle under the strain of books

SMALL VOLUMES

- * Look for tall, narrow bookcases that won't eat up too much floor space.
- * Use the height of your walls for shelving, open units and box storage but don't be tempted to install too many or the room could start to feel closed in.
- * Arrange your books by size or colour to keep the overall appearance neat.
- * Open shelving units work well as room dividers.



1 Squeeze extra storage into a small area with Tilt from Obi Furniture, £35, which has an unusual angled base that can be used to hold books. It comes in Natural Oak, Lead Grey, Shaker Blue or White
2 Children's furniture can often be a great solution as it's smaller but still practical. Clifton storage shelves, £125, Great Little Trading Company
3 Freestanding pieces give an illusion of space as you can see clearly underneath. Leave a couple of sections empty and the room will appear even larger. Merrick storage unit, £169.99, Homebase

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PRACTICAL MATTERS

- * If you're designing a utility room from scratch, consider sliding door storage to conceal the ironing board, iron, broom and bin as well as any other bulky or unattractive items.
- * Even the smallest of spaces can be transformed with freshly painted walls, open slatted wooden shelving, peg rails and pretty storage boxes.
- * Choose a pale, fresh colour theme and pick accessories to match as it will create a streamlined look.
- * Transparent boxes help you find things more easily while coloured storage looks striking on worktops and shelving.
- * When it comes to appliances, ask your retailer for a stacking kit to stack the tumble dryer on top of the washing machine, saving valuable floor space.



1 Make sure you can find things quickly and easily with attractive labelled boxes and caddies. Housekeeper box, £24.99 and Pegs box, £9.99, Dobbies Garden Centre **2 Keep freshly laundered clothes** neatly stored away with a bespoke utility room that's custom-made to suit your needs. This design in matt lacquer and Farrow & Ball's Pavilion Gray with rustic oak is by Roundhouse, where kitchens cost from £35,000 **3 When you need extra floor space**, Brabantia's hanging laundry bag, £27.75, could be a solution. It's available in Warm Red, Cool Grey and Pastel Mint, has a generous 35-litre capacity and a smart rotating hook, allowing you to hang it anywhere you like

If there's no room for a utility area, consider unused spaces such as under the stairs, cloakrooms and built-in cupboards

BATHROOM BLISS

- * Getting help to choose a new bathroom style and having it designed and fitted will make the complex process much more enjoyable. Check out the Service by Design at bathstore.
- * Practicality is key so storing as much as possible in cabinets will make cleaning easy.
- * Don't do away with decoration entirely; have one or two key attractive pieces on show to set your style.
- * Glossy surfaces, pale colours and mirrors make a small room feel more spacious.



1 High style Bathroom cabinets need to be moisture-proof and hardwearing but can also be as good-looking as living room furniture. Textured Linen basin and wall unit, £650; Linen tall unit, £440; both bathstore **2 Retro chic** For those who like a period look, this fabulous multi-purpose storage will keep your bathroom tidy. Vintage-style bath rack with hooks and wire baskets (H92cm x W40cm x D16cm), £125, Cox & Cox **3 Tall order** This freestanding half-black and half-natural wood hanging ladder uses the height of the wall for storage and is an eye-catching addition to a bathroom. Umbra Hub ladder with four bars (H152cm x W61cm), £100, Red Candy

KITCHEN ORGANISERS

- * If you have the space, a freestanding larder cupboard or island unit can be used for all sorts of storage with shelves, drawers, pullouts and cupboard space taking the strain off worktops and wall units.
- * For compact kitchens, look for clever solutions such as slimline trolleys or pull-outs,
- * Furniture on wheels will be easier to move around into a different position when needed.
- * Tailor-made shelving and units can make the most of awkward areas.
- * Make a feature out of a piece of furniture by painting it in a standout colour or change the handles for a personal touch.



1 Freestanding larder cupboards are great as you can pack lots of provisions inside then close the doors to hide it all away. Hartham kitchen larder, from £1,299, Harveys **2 Make good use of an alcove** with a series of Closetmaid steel wire Closetmesh shelving units from Organise My Home. Choose the size nearest to your space then trim shelves to suit. This package would cost £449 **3 Clear glass storage** can make food stores attractive and this Cherub Jar, £30 from Nordic House, does just that **4 Internal drawer storage** will keep pan lids and utensils within easy reach, especially if it's installed beneath the hob. Blum has a wide range of drawers including Servo-Drive for heavy pans

A streamlined kitchen will make cooking and food prep more enjoyable so try to tidy everything away as you go along

SMALL PORTIONS

- * Clear out cabinets and cupboards and invest in stacking shelf inserts to make the most of the inside space.
- * If there's no room for an island, consider a mobile trolley or butcher's block that won't take up much space.
- * A few eye-catching pieces can help brighten things up while still enhancing the streamlined look.
- * Find space to hang utensils and even saucepans and you'll free up worktop and cupboard space.



1 Create more usable space inside kitchen cupboards with the Caddy Stack Shelf, £12.88; the caddies come with integral handles for easy lifting out of cupboards, £4.96 each; all Lakeland **2 Get the most out of** a multi-purpose piece of furniture, such as this kitchen trolley with several shelves to keep essentials handy. In natural oak and iron, the kitchen trolley shelves cost £400 from House Junkie **3 Add a bit of interest** to the room with illustrated tins and caddies, freeing up workspace and keeping a clear, clutter-free kitchen. Folklore storage pot, £17, Berry Red

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** ON PAGE 146

LATEST LOOKS UPDATE

Choose from on-trend styles for
storage solutions you'll love



Minimal sleek ● Awkward corners can be transformed into handy storage areas with made-to-measure wardrobes such as this one in the Cantare bedroom range, from £3,000, Hammonds ● Before designing your storage, count jumpers, jackets, dresses and footwear etc to gauge the configuration of rails, drawers, shelves and shoe racks that will be needed ● White surfaces will give a clean, modern look and if you paint the walls a similar shade the wardrobe will seamlessly blend into the background, giving the illusion of more space ● Discreet handles contribute to a fuss-free style ● Coordinating furniture that has a dual purpose, such as a window seat with drawers, will keep clutter at bay and maintain a streamlined appearance



Smart Scandi ● Fun and functional, this Scandinavian painted mango wood cabinet is an organiser's dream. The clearly labelled, generous drawers offer an efficient way to keep things neat and tidy, while looking cool at the same time. Berdine cabinet, £720, Out There Interiors ● Keep separate drawers for T-shirts, tops, jumpers and so on. This system works especially well if you share your home with less tidy-minded mortals



Go geometric ● Why not opt for shelving for displaying favourite pieces that's decorative in its own right? This statement hanging shelf with its chic grey background and quirky shape is perfect for beautiful books and treasured trinkets. Diamond-shaped bookcase, £259, Bloomingville ● If you have a lot of books and ornaments, consider placing two or three bookcases in a row – there can be beauty in repetition



Purely primary ● Clutter-free surfaces aid concentration, so create a calm corner for peaceful study. A desk unit in a fun colour is sure to entice. Farringdon desk, £275; Retro chair, £95; both Aspace ● A stylish bookshelf pulls the scheme together and ensures books and tools are easy to reach. This one can be hung horizontally or vertically. Mondrian bookshelf, £75, Aspace ● Good lighting is essential. Find a similar desk lamp at Dutch by Design



Utility style ● Mesh storage will give your bathroom an on-trend industrial-chic edge ● Inspired by vintage school lockers, this one has a hanging rail and two compartments ● Choose a slim shape that fits easily into small spaces. This unit can be teamed with other items in the range, such as the waste paper bin, used here for stylish loo roll storage. Locker hanging unit, £469; waste paper bin, £70; both Bowles and Bowles

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Optical effects ● Stylish patterns aren't just for walls, fabrics and soft furnishings. A cabinet such as Storm, £430 from House Doctor, with its unusual surface design offers another way to create a focal point in a room ● A grid pattern of white tiles with dark grouting keeps the walls simple and lets the furniture do the talking ● Warm metals with a rich patina prevent the scheme from looking too clinical. Find vintage-style copper stools at Mia Fleur



Dark drama ● Introduce a luxury feel to home organisation by choosing beautiful furniture with opulent finishes, such as the Nayoko sideboard, £749, Marks & Spencer. For a similar wall colour, try City Life Indulgence Luxury matt, £24.99 for 2.5L, Crown ● Store glassware, tableware, favourite tipples and other dining essentials where they can be easily located before guests arrive. With everything at your fingertips, hosting a crowd will be a breeze



Colour block ● Practical and striking, this shelving system is fully customisable ● Think about mixing colours and finishes when creating your arrangement ● Configure your own design online, choosing from a vast selection of timber veneers, coloured finishes, door, drawer and shelf options. Grid bookshelf, from £612, Hem ● Have a good sort through your stuff and work out what to show and what to stash, before choosing the doors and drawers



Quirky and quaint ● Create a gallery-style storage wall with boxes in different shapes, sizes and colours. These can be mounted onto a wall and added to as and when you need more shelf space. Stacked shelving, from £79 each, Muuto at Skandium ● Mix the shades to enhance your scheme and work out how you want the configuration to look before you start drilling the walls ● Even practical items can look attractive if displayed in this way



PRIME LOCATION

Turn storage into an eye-catching feature with standout pieces

Industrial luxe • Invest in a modular unit and you'll have a striking, versatile system for storing just about everything. This one, made from mango wood and blackened steel, includes bookshelves, concealed cupboards, open cubbies, a desk and media console. Rustic modular unit, from £599, West Elm • Create an eclectic feel by displaying a few key pieces of art and favourite ornaments. Hide clutter away, but resist the temptation to hoard things you no longer need • Woven baskets complement the natural look and are a convenient place for storing magazines. The Holding Company has a huge selection

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NATURAL ARTISAN
Introduce order in a traditional
fashion and you'll add character
to your home too

Perfectly pared-back ● As tempting as fitted wardrobes are for their generous storage capacity, some schemes call for a more traditional approach and freestanding bedroom furniture is in order. If that's the case, choose classic pieces such as this spacious Teramo two-door wardrobe (H195cm x W13cm), £1,230, Ercol ● Made from beautiful pale oak, its Shaker style and simple detailing ooze understated elegance, particularly when the warm wood tones are set against painted and natural timber finishes of the flooring and other pieces of furniture ● Less is more so stay on top of clutter with regular clear-outs to maintain a calm and unfussy ascetic appeal



Country classic ● Opting for a bespoke fitted kitchen is the best option for maximising space, as every nook and cranny can be utilised for storage ● In this scheme a wall cabinet with bi-folding doors spans an alcove. It gives the look of open shelving but the doors can be closed for a neat look ● A flash of contrasting colour in the interior is a stylish feature. Artisan in-frame kitchen, from £25,000, John Lewis of Hungerford



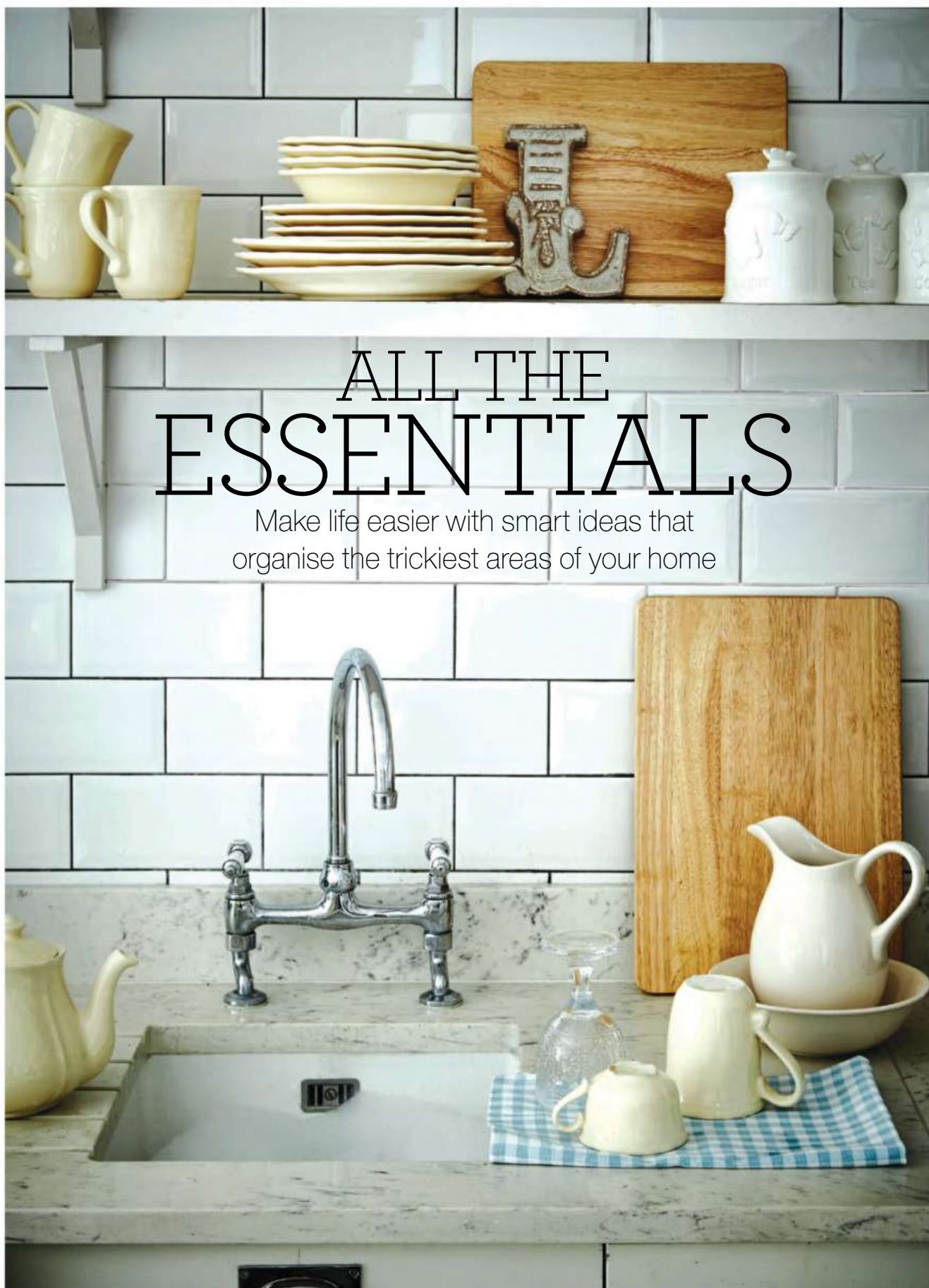
New heritage ● Storage needn't be conventional, so opt for a piece that gives your room a colourful boost and useful cupboard and drawer space too ● This beautiful sideboard in Atlantic Blue has a smart, heritage feel. Designed with durability in mind, the Pinner sideboard is made in solid beechwood with a limewashed oak top, £795, Heal's ● A large abstract painting hung above the sideboard connects the furniture to the room



Highland fling ● Contain clutter by including extra storage where it's not usually expected. A coffee table with a shelf and drawers means remote controls and other gadgets aren't left lying around. Portobello coffee table, £249, Tesco Home ● Natural materials and neutral hues can be enlivened with bold colour. Try Little Greene for a wonderful array of new blue paint shades



Rustic charm ● A shelf with hooks is a useful home for all manner of household paraphernalia. This Bonnie shelving, £135, Loaf, is handmade from solid reclaimed fir ● Store wellies, waterproofs and more in a coordinating storage box with a beautiful bleached finish. Clyde ottoman, £295, Loaf ● A whitewashed finish for walls and furniture gives a cohesive look



ALL THE ESSENTIALS

Make life easier with smart ideas that
organise the trickiest areas of your home



Cook's space-savers

Main picture

High rise Open shelves make good use of wall space above a kitchen sink. They're set back so pieces are safe but can be easily reached. Ikea has a good range of shelves. Provence collection table and glassware, from £3.49, Dunelm

1 Double up Make more space with these versatile storage add-ons. They're perfect for spices, sauces, teabags and coffee. Mesh Slide 'N' Store, £9.96; Mesh Slide 'N' Store, 29.99; both Lakeland

2 Plate up Keep pretty plates on display with a wall-mounted rack handmade from solid mango wood. It's large enough to hold 10 plates with cups and saucers or bowls on the shelf underneath (H66cm x W72cm x D27cm), £115, Within

3 Pull out If you're planning the kitchen of your dreams, consider including drawer inserts to help with organisation. These bespoke

hand-painted cutlery and plate drawers keep everything in its place and prevent items getting lost or sliding about. Kitchen from £18,000, Rencraft

4 Niche area Make the most of every spare inch of a new kitchen by using an unused area at the end of a base unit. This slim pull-out larder will hold jars and bottles to free up valuable space elsewhere. Cooke & Lewis 150mm white base cabinet with pullout larder, £40, B&Q

5 Vintage life You can never have too many storage tins. This pink one is part of a set of three decorated with flowers and birds – display them on shelves or a worktop. Turquoise, soft pastel pink and pastel blue tins (tallest H25cm), £24, Berry Red



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Smart ideas

1 Sounds good Create your own design feature with a sleek stand for your headphones. This black steel design would look great in a modern scheme. Yamazaki Beauties headphone stand (H28cm x W13cm), £15, John Lewis

2 Spin it Vinyl is making a comeback so make sure you've got somewhere stylish to store your LPs. This iron record stand comes with two flat shelves and a rack that will hold at least 25 records (H66cm x W51cm x D20cm), £75, Urban Outfitters

3 White teeth This ingenious Toothy Cable Tidy can be installed on the edge of a desk where it will hold phone and iPad chargers between its 'teeth' ready for use. £5, Headsprung

4 Space control In soft grey felt, this shaped Besta drawer divider, £5, will keep DVDs in place and there's a handy space for the remote. It measures L51cm x D32cm x H6cm and fits perfectly into a Besta TV

bench, £105, both Ikea

5 Altogether now Keep essentials where you can find them. This very stylish holder in dark wood has two slots so there's plenty of space for an iPad, Kindle and iPhone as well as other bits and bobs. Wooden tablet and remote control store (H16cm x W23cm x D12cm), £19, Store

6 Easy viewing Made from chunky, high-grade acrylic, this Finnish-designed CD box (H17cm x W14cm x D14cm) would be a stylish addition to a desk top or sideboard, £22.95, The Holding Company





Well-read

1 Simple style Keep cookery books handy in the corner of the kitchen with a neat set of shelves that have a minimal, modern look. The Dalston oak-effect wood shelves with a white frame stands at H99cm x W50cm x D46cm. It also comes in red with walnut-effect shelves, £39, Tesco Direct

2 Leaning tower Part of a range in raw oak, this shelf is perfect for a tight space. It leans against the wall and has a zinc support bar for extra support. Hambledon raw oak shelf ladder (H180cm x W48cm x D35cm), £240, Garden Trading

3 On hand A small number of books can be stored without shelving. Keep current favourites handy in a woven felt basket instead. Alvin, set of three storage baskets, £139.50, also available in green, Calligaris

4 Hook it This unusual book rack has 12 removable hooks

with cords that thread through a book and are held on a little plate. Books can be removed to read and hung neatly or flat against the wall. Handmade, waxed and polished oak or walnut book rack (H4cm x W70cm), £195, Limelace

5 Polar opposites If you're a child at heart then you'll fall in love with this unusual polar bear bookcase. It has several storage compartments all the way around and is made of high-pressure laminate, finished in glossy white (H95cm x W180cm x D60cm), £1,200, Graham & Green





SAVVY STORAGE

Factor in some nifty storage solutions to your bathroom design and create a space that's pleasing to the eye and practical too

The best bathrooms are those that not only look good but work well too. Keeping a bathroom neat and tidy is a great way of showing it at its best and if you factor in plenty of clever storage solutions to your design, then keeping it looking spick and span won't be a chore.

At bathstore you can choose from a range of storage options to suit all bathrooms, from freestanding units to fitted furniture, wall units and floor-standing units. They all come in a selection of colours, materials and finishes to help you create a bathroom that really is

custom-built to your specific tastes and requirements.

For those who prefer a fitted bathroom, the Portfolio Gloss range (left) is ideal. It has a wonderfully clean and glossy aesthetic and makes maximum use of space so you can be sure you're getting as much storage as possible. It's hugely versatile too, so even a tiny bathroom can be transformed – Portfolio's slimline short projection units would work particularly well where space is tight.

And there's a fabulous selection of units available including door units, drawer units, toilet units and even toilet roll units, so you'll easily find a slot for towels, toiletries and other bathroom essentials.



Neat and tidy

At bathstore, there are plenty of handy storage solutions to help you maintain a well-organised and tidy bathroom. The wall-mounted DuoBox drawer unit (below) cleverly combines contemporary design with practicality in a sleek white gloss finish with an elegant full-length polished aluminium handle – just perfect for keeping your towels and toiletries tidily hidden away.



On the wall

At bathstore, all cabinets are made to the highest standard and built to last with sturdy frames and quality finishes such as on the Lincoln (above). So once you've got all your essentials neatly stored out of sight, you can rest assured that your bathroom will look this good for years to come.



Shelf life

A wall-mounted shelf or bathroom basket is an ideal way of keeping bottles tidy and at bathstore the range is vast, with all sorts of shapes and sizes. Select from corner, rectangular and even semi-circular ones, allowing you to make the most of every nook and cranny in your bathroom.

One hundred and ninety nine Good Housekeeping consumers were asked about their shopping experience*, overall satisfaction, whether they'd use bathstore again if they were going to renovate their bathroom, and if they'd recommend bathstore to a friend. The bathstore shopping experience has been GH Reader Recommended. See the products and speak to the experts at one of bathstore's 172 locations nationwide. Visit bathstore.com to find your nearest store.



bathstore
Bathrooms matter. Visit the experts.

WHERE TO BUY

Aspace 0845 872 2400; aspace.co.uk
B&Q 0333 014 3098; diy.com
Barbara Genda Bespoke Furniture
 020 7978 2349; barbara-genda.com
Bathstore 0800 023 2323; bathstore.com
Berry Red 01432 274805; berryred.co.uk
Bloomingville bloomingville.com
Blum 0800 917 5550; blum.com
Boconcept 020 7794 8049; boconcept.com
Bowles and Bowles 020 7351 2130;
 bowlesandbowles.com
Brabantia 01275 819119; brabantia.com
Calligaris 020 8997 3371; calligaris.co.uk
Cox & Cox 0844 858 0744;
 coxandcox.co.uk
Design Letters & Friends 0845 226 3104;
 skandivis.co.uk
Designers Guild 020 7893 7620;
 designersguild.com
Dobbies Garden Centre
 0131 561 6406; dobbies.com
Dormy House (The) 01264 365808;
 thedormyhouse.co.uk
Dunelm 0345 165 6565; dunelm-mill.co.uk
Dutch by Design 0844 884 2340;
 dutchbydesign.com
eBay ebay.co.uk
Ercol 01844 271800; ercol.com
Fishpools 01992 636465; fishpools.co.uk
French Bedroom Company 01444 415430;
 frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk
Furniture Village 0800 804 8879;
 furniturevillage.co.uk
Garden Trading 0845 608 4448;
 gardentrading.co.uk
Go Modern 020 7731 9540;
 gomodern.co.uk

Graham and Green 020 8987 3700;
 grahamandgreen.co.uk
Great Little Trading Co
 0344 848 6000; gltc.co.uk
Habitat 0344 499 1111; habitat.co.uk
Hammonds 0800 021 4360;
 hammonds-uk.com
Harveys 0344 847 2626;
 harveysfurniture.co.uk
Headsprung headsprung.co.uk
Heal's 020 7896 7451; heals.com
Hem 0800 048 8423; hem.com
Holding Company (The) 020 8445 2888;
 theholdingcompany.co.uk
Homebase 0345 077 8888; homebase.co.uk
House Doctor 020 3630 1191;
 housedoctor.dk
House Junkie 01886 884091;
 housejunkie.co.uk
House of Bath 0871 230 0867;
 houseofbath.co.uk
Ikea 020 3645 0000; ikea.co.uk
In-Spaces 020 7580 1990; in-spaces.com
Jensen 020 8362 8690; jensen-beds.com
John Cullen Lighting 020 7371 9000;
 johncullenlighting.co.uk
John Lewis 0845 604 9049; johnlewis.com
John Lewis of Hungerford
 0700 278 4726; john-lewis.co.uk
Lakeland 01539 488100; lakeland.co.uk
Limelace 01423 900522; limelace.co.uk
Little Greene 020 7935 8844;
 littlegreene.com
Loaf 0845 468 0698; loaf.com
Marks & Spencer 0333 014 8000;
 marksandspencer.com
Mia Fleur 0116 298 6393; miafleur.com

Natuzzi 01322 771442; natuzzi.co.uk
Neatfreak 01202 619500; neatfreak.com
Neville Johnson 0161 873 8333;
 nevillejohnson.co.uk
Nordic House 01872 223220;
 nordichouse.co.uk
Obi Furniture 01934 861114;
 obifurniture.co.uk
Organise My Home 01622 872006;
 organisemyhome.com
Original BTC 01993 882251;
 originalbtc.com
Out There Interiors 020 8099 7443;
 outthereinteriors.com
Poundland 0800 731 5622;
 poundland.co.uk
Red Candy 0121 224 7728;
 redcandy.co.uk
Rencraft 01732 762682; rencraft.co.uk
Roundhouse 020 7297 6220;
 roundhousedesign.com
Schmidt 020 8888 7224;
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INTO THE BLUE

By revamping two rooms, Su and Scott Wotherspoon, both 47, have created a contemporary bedroom and ensuite. After living in their five-bedroom detached Victorian house with their sons Tom, Olly and Jack for 10 years, the couple decided to make better use of space and add a main bedroom and bathroom in the converted loft.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

BEFORE



ACTION PLAN

- STRIP OUT ORIGINAL ATTIC ROOMS
- INSTALL DORMER AND FRENCH WINDOWS
- LAY WOODEN FLOORING AND DECORATE
- HANG CURTAINS AND ROMAN BLINDS



WALLPAPER

This tie-dyed design makes a strong link with other cobalt blue elements in the room

WINDOW

A simple Roman blind contrasts with the busy wallpaper design

SOFT

FURNISHINGS

So choose a blue palette, varying the textures and patterns to add interest

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**WALLS**

A neutral pale grey backdrop enhances the feeling of space

BED

An upholstered headboard and white-painted frame look smart and fresh

CURTAINS

The fabric is three metres wide so needs no seams

Why was the original layout not working?

There were two attic bedrooms. Jack had one and the boys used the eaves as a den, but two-thirds of the space wasn't being used.

What did you have in mind when you started the project?

We wanted to create a big airy bedroom and ensuite.

Professional help was needed...

Yes, to get the best use of the space, we employed architect Grainne O'Keefe – she specialises in creating contemporary living spaces in Victorian homes while retaining the character.

How did the building work go?

During the process it came to light that the eaves needed more support and we had to forgo our planned pitched roof. Also the builders saw that we'd need to replace the roof in 5-10 years so we decided to get it done while the scaffolding was in place.

You had clear-cut ideas for the interior design

I wanted a light, modern and uncluttered look. For the walls we opted for a cool pale grey and I chose fabrics and a wallpaper in the same shade of cobalt blue with a fine billowy linen for the windows and a textured wallpaper for one wall. We painted our bed frame white and replaced the headboard with an upholstered version fixed to the wall.

The bathroom is a good size

It has space for an antique-style bath that gives it an elegant, lived-in look. I found a large rectangular basin and had a zinc-top table made for it to sit on. The builder suggested having mirrors made to fit the top sections of the walls either side of the window and the reflections certainly maximise the feeling of space.

Now the room is being used in quite a different way

We have a gorgeous large bedroom and bathroom that overlook the garden – I love to escape and relax here when I can.

Can you pass on some advice after your experience?

Be prepared to be flexible!

● Contact Grainne O'Keefe Architects on 020 8941 1061; gokarchitects.co.uk

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

**BASIN**

The large-scale rectangular basin sits on a bespoke zinc-top table

FLOORING

Monochrome tumbled marble tiles were chosen for their warm, worn effect

IN DETAIL



Built-in shelving provides storage for books and a display area for vases



The starting point for the bathroom was the antiqued metal bateau bath

GET THE LOOK



Blue Diamond woven **cushion**, £14, by Sainsbury's



Venice mango wood **bedside table**, £310, Sweetpea & Willow

WHAT IT COST

BEDROOM

Paint	£72
Flooring	£1,728
Fabric	£999
Wallpaper	£89
Headboard	£400
Total	£3,288

BATHROOM

Floor tiles	£880
Wall tiles	£598
Bath	£3,198
Basin	£307
Washstand	£220
Shower	£2,013
Taps	£1,203
Blind fabric	£140
Total	£8,559



Polyurethane 904 **chair**, £490, Wharfside

THE NEW LAYOUT

Two attic rooms have been turned into a spacious bedroom and ensuite



SHOPPING LIST

BEDROOM Walls painted in Blackened Modern emulsion, £72 for 5L, Farrow & Ball. **Bed painted** in Annie Sloan Old White Chalk paint, £5.95 for 100ml, Sheldon Paint Techniques. Savine Cobalt textured vinyl **wallpaper**, £89 a roll, Designers Guild. Super White engineered **flooring**, £54 a sq metre, Gold Flooring. Made-to-measure upholstered **headboard**, £400, Twickenham Upholstery. **Headboard and cushion** made up in Amlapura Cobalt cotton, £43 a metre; **curtains** made up in Saraille hand-dyed linen, £158 a metre; **blinds** made up in Brera Lino Ultramarine and Chalk linen, £65 a metre; Biella Ink & Indigo super-king **duvet cover**, £175; pillowcases, £20 each; all Designers Guild. Curtains and blinds made by Jenny Hale. Micke **desk**, £65, Ikea. Bedside **lights**, £120 each; Hans Wegner **Wishbone chairs**, £575

each; all The Conran Shop. **Concrete pendant light**, from £115, Holly's House; Ink large **dotted vase**, £40; **medium vase**, £30; small **striped vase**, £20; all Heal's. Carafe vase, £5.95, Attic. **BATHROOM** Cinema Roxy **wall tiles**, £49.80 a sq metre, Fired Earth. Tumbled Nero Marble **floor tiles** (10cm x 10cm), £109.95 a sq metre, Tiles of Wisdom. Astonian Bateau freestanding polished cast-iron **bath**, £3,198; Astonian Box countertop **basin**, £307; AM11 freestanding **towel rail**, £955; Astonian Albany freestanding **bath shower mixer**, £891; **wall basin mixer**, £312; Zyam **corner shower enclosure**, £848; Astonian concealed thermostatic **shower valve**, £941.86; Ronda 300mm **shower head**, £223.83; all Aston Matthews. Zinc **washstand**, £220, Sunbury Antiques Market. **Blind** made up in Franchini Noir silk taffeta, £108 a metre, Designers Guild **HB**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

**CURVY CLASSIC**

Bubble Ball wall sconce designed by George Nelson, £478 from SCP, is an iconic mid-century design

**CONICAL STYLE**

A simple cone-shaped shade is sleek and elegant. Black wall light, £98.50, Design Vintage

**LIGHT THE WAY**

This classic wall light would suit any scheme. Chiswick powder-coated steel wall lamp, £30, Garden Trading

**GLOSSY BLUE**

Introduce a shot of colour into your lighting scheme. Type 1228 wall light, £100, Anglepoise

Switched ON

If space is limited, opt for a wall light for your bedtime reading

**WARM GLOW**

Beautifully crafted from bone china, the Hector Dome wall light costs £115 (medium) from Original BTC

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

Small but perfectly formed, the Silver 1 Light spotlight, £7.99 from Dunelm, aims a bright light just where you want it

**80S REVIVAL**

The geometric shape and bright colour of this striking light were inspired by 1980s design. Truman wall light, £39, made.com

**MIX 'N' MATCH**

This highly adjustable retro option makes for versatile lighting. Wood and metal wall lamp, £75, Cox & Cox



ZONES OF COLOUR

A modern kitchen extension blends seamlessly with a 19th-century cottage. Claire Fraher, 32, her husband John, 31, and their children Amelia, Thomas and Harry moved to their five-bedroom detached cottage in Billingshurst, West Sussex in 2011. The building was derelict, so for two years they lived in a mobile home while they renovated it. They then spent the next 18 months building the extension for the kitchen.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

WALL CUPBOARD
The rustic cabinet from Ardingly Antiques Fair provides a link between the original cottage and the new extension



BEFORE




ACTION PLAN

BUILD FOUNDATIONS

PLASTER AND LAY THE FLOOR

FIT THE KITCHEN AND DECORATE

PAINT FURNITURE



BANK OF UNITS
With textured doors painted in a deep aubergine shade, the scheme is smart and sophisticated

WORKTOP
A practical, durable solid stone surface has been fitted over the existing wooden worktops

FLOOR
Large grey tiles give a streamlined contemporary look

STOOLS
Claire bought the stools on eBay for £25 each and painted them to match the units



CEILING LIGHTS
Ikea pendants have been refitted with coloured flex

SOFA
A grey corner sofa divides the room into zones

TABLE
The extending table can seat up to ten. It has a glossy, easy-to-keep clean surface

‘Whether it’s just the two of us here for dinner or we’re having a bonfire party for 50, the room adapts and everything seems to work in the space,’ SAYS CLAIRE

You did a lot of the work yourselves

We could only afford this house because it was a wreck and John would be able to do most of the building work around his job as a pilot. The extension for the kitchen was added as a second phase after the rest of the house was finished. John tiled, decorated and fitted the kitchen and we had the help of a plasterer and an electrician.

What did you want to achieve with your new kitchen?

We love the period features of our cottage but the kitchen extension is a large open-plan living space where we can spend time together.

How did you come up with the design?

The layout was conceived by John’s brother at Fraher Architects. We started off thinking of having a country style to work with the cottage but he suggested a modern look with a big island. We united the old and new areas by using similar colours throughout.

Tell us about the colour scheme

White walls give a fresh feel and we added a bold aubergine with the cupboards. We painted furniture and artwork in bright colours and chose floor tiles, worktops and furniture in grey, which runs throughout.

Did you come across any problems with the project?

John originally planned to have cast concrete worktops and fitted temporary wooden ones. After research he realised cast concrete would be too challenging so we looked for other solutions and found a company that fits solid tops over existing work surfaces.

Are you happy with the results?

I never thought we’d be able to afford a kitchen like this so I’m very grateful for what we now have. It’s become the centre of activity in the house. I think it’s very special to be able to watch the children work and play while carrying on with everyday jobs – it means I don’t feel I’m missing out on any fun.



A display of framed shapes painted in vibrant colours has been hung above a bench in a coordinating green

IN
DETAIL



An alcove has become a desk area with a revamped table and Ikea stools



John fitted a socket in the cupboard so the kettle can be hidden away and just pulled forward when needed

SHOPPING LIST

Walls painted in Slaked Lime Intelligent matt emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5L; **coffee table** painted in Marine Blue Intelligent eggshell, £53 for 2.5L; both Little Greene. **Back door** and **skirting boards** painted in Marlin eggshell, £37.49 for 2.5L, Albany Paint. **Wood units** painted in Ammonite; **wood units** painted in Brinjal; **seat bench** painted in Arsenic; **dining bench** and **display cupboard** painted in Yellow Cake; all Estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Porcelain **floor tiles** (60cm x 60cm), £23 a sq metre, Floors of Stone. Hyttan and Ringhult **kitchen doors** and **cupboard**, from £74 for a 600mm base unit, Ikea. Brushed nickel **bar handles**, £4.90-£9.10, Ironmongery Direct. Pietra Stone **worktop**, from £385 a sq metre including installation, Granite Transformations. Neff **double oven**, £649; Neff **single electric oven**, £509; Neff **warming drawer**, £419; Neff **hob**, £689; **integrated fridge**, £699; all John Lewis. Bush **dishwasher**, £239, Argos. Bosch **extractor**, £269, Nigel O'Hara. **Freezer**, £250; Bredskar **sink**, £245; both Ikea. Similar Conway

kitchen **mixer tap**, £50, taps.co.uk. KMix **kettle**, £59.99; **coffee machine**, £54.94; both Amazon. **Blinds** in Ingerlise, £25 a pair; Melodi **pendant lights**, £5 each; all Ikea. **Flex**, £3.08 a metre, lampsandlights.com. Bramante **dining table**, £499, made.com. Cubic metal **chairs**, £56 each, Prime Furnishings. Frosta **stools**, £8 each, Ikea. **Letter rack**, £15, Debenhams. Orange Peeta **table lamp**, £28, Habitat. **Yellow cabinet**, £39, Homesense. Karlstad **corner sofa** in Isunda Grey, £825; Ribba **picture frames** from £3.50 each, Ikea. **Bar stools**, £25 each; **coffee table**, £5; all eBay. Similar **orange cushions**, around £28, Zazzle. Missprint Home Dashes **yellow cushion**, £20, John Lewis. **Dog cushion**, £20, Debenhams **HB**

WHAT IT COST

Kitchen units.....£3,836
Work surface.....£4,000
Appliances.....£3,723
Sink and tap.....£295
Floor tiles.....£1,173
Furniture.....£1,733
Total.....£14,760

THE NEW LAYOUT

A new kitchen extension offers lots of family space



GET THE LOOK



Havill multicoloured cushion, £25, Habitat



Electric kettle, £49.95, Muji

Dipped tea, coffee and sugar canisters, £5.99 each, Dunelm

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE WHERE TO BUY PAGE



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**CROSS COUNTRY**

Crafted in mango wood, the New Frontier X Leg, £899, Barker and Stonehouse, has warm tones to suit a modern rustic scheme

**SOLID STRUCTURE**

Inspired by artists' trestles, this award-winning design will withstand robust entertaining. Leonardo, £2,500, The Conran Shop

**SIMPLY STYLISH**

Handmade from sustainably sourced pine, the Heritage Mustard Supreme, from £895 at Lilly Lory, will get better over the years

**NEW NEUTRAL**

Unite your dining and living spaces with a table in a soft shade such as this Greyish Green. Joa Sekoya by TOG, £935, Heal's

Top TABLES

Contemporary and practical designs that are central to family life

**PRACTICALLY PERFECT**

The oak Hana, £550 from Habitat, provides storage with six handy drawers to keep cutlery, placemats and table linen organised

**THROUGH THE WIRE**

Minimal wire-legged furniture gives the illusion of space. The Backaryd/Slåhulte, £100, Ikea, has a melamine top

**ROOM FOR EVERYONE**

With an extension leaf stored inside, this can grow to seat friends and family. Chiltern extending dining table, £350, Next

**DOUBLE DIAMOND**

Great for smaller homes, this oak model folds in half if you need more space. Double Cross extending table, £399, made.com

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Shaker chic

Get an updated Shaker look with these tips from Bruce Thomas of Mereway Kitchens

- * Shaker-style kitchens stand the test of time and up-to-date touches, such as the Ely range's horizontal grain door panels and shaped beading, add interest.
- * Extra-wide wall cupboards give a sleek contemporary look and can be fitted with the latest interior storage systems to keep clutter at bay.
- * A mantle frames a cooking area. The clean lines and simple shape of this one (left) are smart and eye-catching. Hidden doors conceal additional storage.
- * Ready-to-paint doors provide a blank canvas for a personalised design. Our Ely kitchen also has 25 factory colour options including a sophisticated, easy-to-live-with grey.
- * Effective, functional task lighting is essential so fit LED strip lighting below wall units and inside drawers.
- * Slimline solid oak worktops are on trend and bring warmth and character to an island unit.
- * Finishing touches such as handles can change the feel of units. Stainless-steel angled bar handles give a neat look.

Ely kitchen in Cadet Grey, from £10,000, The Town & Country collection at Mereway Kitchens

KITCHEN NOTEBOOK

Best new trends, expert advice and the latest appliances



GOOD IDEA

Signature style

British small appliances manufacturer Dualit has joined forces with Bluebellgray to create a range of striking panels in a painterly floral design that simply screw on to the Architect kettle and toaster. The panels cost £24.95 a pack, the kettle is £79.96 and the toaster is £99.95.

3 OF A KIND

The newest range cookers look good and perform well



▲ Packed with the latest technology, this model has an energy efficient five-zone induction hob that heats up fast, a conventional oven and fan oven with catalytic linings for easy cleaning, a grill area and storage. **Cookmaster CK100D210K (W100cm), £1,400, Leisure**



▲ This hybrid cooker has a single oven that can be operated by gas or electricity. Gas is ideal for fish or roasting meat; the electric mode is great for baking. It has a six-burner gas hob with cast-iron pan supports and comes in a variety of colours. **Professional Series Hybrid range cooker (W89.5cm), £3,995, Bertazzoni**



▲ High on style with a compact footprint, this dual fuel model has a host of features, with two ovens, a grill and a hob with five gas burners with automatic ignition, a wok ring and rotary knobs. **Elise range cooker in China Blue (W90cm), £2,295, Rangemaster**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



A TOUCH OF SPARKLE

Natasha Parker, 41, husband Ray, 42, and their children, Jonathan and Emily, moved into their new five-bed detached home near Chorleywood in Hertfordshire in 2006. Although the master ensuite bathroom was functional, it wasn't to their taste and as it was located in the eaves it felt cramped. Natasha wanted a spa-like room that would be a luxurious bathroom retreat.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE



ALCOVES
Recessed areas
add interest to
the room and
are perfect for
display

WC
A wall-hung WC
and flush-mounted
controls are
unfussy choices
that are ideal for
a small bathroom

SILVER TILES
With a textured, glossy finish, they look most striking when the downlighters are on

LIGHTING
A bespoke scheme creates different moods, from low-key lights for relaxing to illuminated mirrors for a glamorous look

TWICE AS NEAT
Wall-mounted taps mean the vanity basins are kept uncluttered

BEFORE



ACTION PLAN

- REMOVE STORAGE CUPBOARD
- TAKE DOWN THE WALL BETWEEN THE BATHROOM AND BEDROOM
- REBUILD THE BATHROOM FURTHER INTO THE BEDROOM
- BUILD A STUD WALL TO CREATE ALCOVES FOR THE FEATURE WALL
- TILE AND FIT BATH AND FITTINGS



SHOWER PANEL
A wide shower with a frameless enclosure allows the natural light to flood in from the Velux window above



SECRET DOORS
Designed to look like part of the wardrobes, the middle two doors are the entrance from the bedroom to the ensuite

Tell us what the bathroom was like before

It had a typical developer's finish with basic white tiles and lacked character. Being under the eaves, the biggest issue was the sloping ceilings, which meant the amount of head room was limited. Alongside the bathroom we had a walk-in cupboard accessed from the main bedroom that wasn't particularly useful – also due to the sloping ceiling. A leak in the shower had damaged the living room below prompting us to think about whether to sell up and move or to invest in a new ensuite. I'd always wanted a luxurious bathroom, so we decided to stay and fit something special.

What was on your wishlist?

My most important purchase was a whirlpool bath and, after researching the market carefully, I opted for a top quality model by Teuco. It has a minimal design with modern nozzles, four massage levels, relaxing lights and it's very quiet when running. We had to wait nearly four months for it to arrive and it was a major investment, but as well as being a special treat, it is the main feature of our new spa-like bathroom.

Did you have help with the design and build?

After trying a local company which wasn't able to source the kind of items I wanted, I contacted designer Max Spenser-Morris of Design Republic, who is also a good family friend. He's based in Cambridge, but the distance wasn't a problem and he produced amazing plans that proved to be key to the success of the project. I was able to project manage the work myself using Max's plans.

How did the project get started?

First the cupboard was removed to create space for the whirlpool bath. Then the wall between the bedroom and bathroom was moved into the bedroom by 30.5cm and a shower was installed opposite the bath. As I wanted two separate vanity basins, Max designed bespoke wall-hung units and also an amazing lighting scheme to give me a variety of mood lighting options.

You had strong ideas about the colour scheme

I wanted one wall that was luxurious and glamorous, but which wouldn't date quickly. Max suggested wall tiles with a sawn-wood effect in a silver finish, and white tiles for the floor and shower wall. As a contrast I chose a floral pattern for behind the vanity units.

Any design tips you can pass on?

One of the best ways to execute a project successfully is to have really good plans that are as detailed as possible. I'd also say that if you're revamping an awkwardly shaped room, don't be timid with the colour scheme. Instead, celebrate the unique shape by adding a feature wall or by choosing a really bold shade.

Are you happy with the results?

I used to love visiting spas every couple of months, but now I don't need to. Having a spa in our home has made us all more chilled and has increased our feeling of wellbeing. I could never move now, I'd miss my bathroom too much!

● Contact Design Republic on 01284 812590; design-republic.net

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE



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Decorated with a pretty design the cupboards are glamorous and practical

WORDS CAROLINE FOSTER PHOTOGRAPHY CLIVE DOYLE PLAN CHRISTOS PINIATIDES



The whirlpool bath is a luxurious addition to the spa-style room



Swarovski crystals on the basin and bath taps add sparkle

GET THE LOOK



Gold and white **tealight holders**, £12 and £13.50, The Contemporary Home



Felicity glass mosaic **tile** (30cm x 30cm), £118 a sq metre, British Ceramic Tile

THE NEW LAYOUT

The ensuite has been extended into the bedroom



SHOPPING LIST

Teuco Wilmotte Hydroline Whirlpool **bath**, £8,390; Jaipur **Silver tiles**, £64.80 a sq metre; Agra **white tiles**, £64.80 a sq metre; Cassiopea **flower-pattern tiles**, £144 each; all Design Republic. Fussion range **vanity units**, £1,712 each; **cupboard**, £658; **mirrors**, £616 each; all Flora. Azeta Crystal wall-mounted **basin mixers**, £372 each; Azeta Crystal deck-mounted **bath mixer**, £618; both Galassia. Designer **shower kit** with wall outlet, £99; Zion VS **shower head**, £190; Elite Digital **shower processor** and **controller**, £1,332; all Crosswater. **Shower enclosure**, £945, The Showerlab. Essential Studio **towel range**, from £4; Purple cotton loop **bath mat**, £7.99; Silver crackle Relax **decoration**, £18; all BHS. Silver **quilt**, £220, Next **HB**

WHAT IT COST

Bath.....	£8,390
Mounted bath mixer.....	£618
Units.....	£4,082
Mirrors.....	£1,232
Taps.....	£744
Shower and enclosure	£2,566
Wall tiles	£3,286
Floor tiles	£ 350
Total	£21,268



Inox single stainless-steel lever wall-mounted **basin tap**, £270, Just Taps Plus

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



INFINITE INDULGENCE

Made from 100 per cent Turkish cotton, these are super soft and instantly absorbent. Luxury Retreat towels, £3-£31, Sheridan



SIMPLY SCANDI

Pale blue is a perfect addition to a calming Nordic scheme. Large guest towel, £9, from Hay at Selfridges



JEWEL COLOURS

This design was inspired by the geometric patterns of traditional Moroccan tiles. Alhambra in Plum, £12-£36, Christy



SWINGING 60S

An iconic brand is reinterpreted for the modern home. Biba Feather towels, £14-£35, House of Fraser

Soft TOUCH

Indulge in the spa experience from the comfort of your own bathroom



SUBTLE SHADES

Mix and match neutral shades to lift a white bathroom. House in Style HB Antibes towels, £3.50-£30, Houseology



COSY OPTION

Snuggle up into the New Authentic Stripe towels in 100 per cent soft and heavy terry cotton, £15-£55, Lexington



ZIG-ZAG DESIGN

Go for a gentler take on monochrome mixed with a natural shade. Moeve Brooklyn Herringbone towels, £18-£50, Amara



PRETTY PATTERN

These Boudoir Damask Jacquard towels in 100 per cent cotton, are an affordable luxury at just £5.99-£11.99, Dunelm

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

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What you smell

What your
guests smell



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Breathe Happy

What you
smell.

What your
guests smell.



Have you gone noseblind?

Febreze truly eliminates odours and leaves a light Christmas scent.



Breathe Happy

Osaka resin and stone composite bath, £2,350; Liberty floorstanding single-lever bath and shower mixer with standpipe, £3,950; teak bench, £325; Arabian Sea glass mosaics, £174.88 a square metre, and Lombardia porcelain tiles in Rho, £79.94 a sq metre; all Fired Earth

Choosing a bath

Design advice from Leila Roberts of Fired Earth Bathrooms

- * A contemporary, freestanding white bath is ideal for a spa-style scheme but if you like the idea of painting the exterior of your bath, ask showroom staff if it's an option.
- * Cast-iron baths are heavy so be sure that the bathroom joists can bear the weight. The main issue with a large, heavy bath is manoeuvring it through stairwells and doorways.
- * Acrylic is a lightweight, durable material ideal for a busy bathroom.
- * Made from ground stone and resin, composite stone baths look like stone but are not so heavy.
- * A freestanding caddy, bath rack or accessible shelving is a must for toiletries if your bath lacks a surround. Bamboo accessories give a minimal and spa-like feel.
- * Room size usually dictates the size of the bath. Mini freestanding baths and back-to-wall designs are stylish compact options.
- * If a bath doesn't have a ledge to accommodate tap holes, you'll need a wall- or floor-mounted version. This will require standpipes so consider the positioning of the bath before choosing the taps.

BATHROOM NOTEBOOK

New ideas and expert advice to refresh the look of your room



LATEST TREND

Geo style

Great for adding a pop of colour to a white bathroom, the Tate bathroom textiles from George Home at Asda feature geometric shapes in blue, chartreuse yellow and slate. Towels, from £4; bathmat, £8; soap dispenser, £4.

3 OF A KIND

The latest heated towel rails come in standout designs



▲ Elegant and functional, this design has a transparent towel bar and a storage shelf. LED side strip lighting is optional. Other colours are available. Heat output 2388 BTU/hr. **Tratto** (H1,600mm x W450mm x D332mm), £2,066, MHS Radiators



▲ Circular layers give this towel rail an eye-catching, modern look. Shown in chrome, it comes in a choice of colours and can be fitted horizontally or vertically. Heat output 1699 BTU/hr. **Eos Round** (H1,180mm x W500mm x D215mm), £1,651, Iconic



▲ This double-tube option is ideal for larger rooms. It comes in four sizes and in over 500 standard RAL paint colours. Heat output 3179 BTU/hr. **Perla in RAL1021** (H1,148mm x W500mm x D77mm), £841, The Radiator Centre

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

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SMART LIVING

Get the best deals on TV viewing from the comfort of your sofa

Choose a streaming service to suit you

Never miss the latest TV series and enjoy watching a host of movies using a streaming service, says Matt Powell of Broadband Genie (broadbandgenie.co.uk). Here's what's on offer...

* Now TV

What you get Streaming Sky Movies, Sky Sports or pay TV channels such as Sky Atlantic and Comedy Central. Each pack can be taken individually. Pay monthly with no contract tie-in.

Best feature Watch Sky channels without a Sky dish or contract.

Supported devices NOW TV box, PC, Apple Mac, Chromecast, Sony PS3/4, Xbox 360/One, Roku, Android, iPhone/iPad, selected smart TVs. From £6.99 a month, nowtv.com

* Netflix

What you get Movies and Netflix original programming. One-month contract.

Best feature Original shows and supported by numerous platforms.

Supported devices Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Sony PS3/4, Xbox 360/One, Android, iPhone/iPad, selected smart TVs, PC, Apple Mac. From £5.99 a month, netflix.com/gb

* PictureBox

What you get On demand movie streaming. Films are hand-picked and updated weekly. One-month contract.

Best feature An eclectic choice of films.

Supported devices PC, Apple Mac, Xbox 360, iPhone/iPad, Samsung smart TVs and Blu-ray players, TalkTalk TV. £4.99 a month, pictureboxfilms.com

* Google Play

What you get Thousands of films and TV shows to buy and/or rent. They can be streamed or downloaded. Supported by many

devices, including tablets and streaming boxes.

Best features Good content catalogue with flexible viewing options. Pay on demand.

Supported devices PC, Apple Mac, Android, Chromecast, Roku, iPhone/iPad, Apple TV, selected smart TVs.

Price varies, play.google.com/store?hl=en_GB

* Amazon Prime Instant Video

What you get Thousands of TVs and movies to stream, plus optional rentals, and original Amazon programming.

Best feature Amazon Prime membership includes Prime Instant Video along with free next-day delivery. One-month contract.

Supported devices PC, Apple Mac, Amazon Fire TV, Sony PS3/4, Xbox One/360, Kindle Fire, iPhone/iPad, Android, selected smart TVs. £5.99 a month, amazon.co.uk

* Blinkbox

What you get Buy or rent TV shows – as individual episodes or box sets – and movies.

Best feature Pay as you go. There's no subscription fee.

Supported devices PC, Apple Mac, iPhone/iPad, Android, Xbox One/360, Sony PS3, selected smart TVs and Blu-ray players. From 99p, blinkbox.com

* CinemaNow

What you get Buy or rent films or TV shows.

Best feature Pay as you go. There's no subscription fee.

Supported devices PC, Apple Mac, Android, selected smart TVs. From £1.99, uk.cinemanow.com

* iTunes

What you get Buy and rent movies and TV shows for streaming in SD and HD.

Best feature A large selection of shows and films; browsing and viewing is easy.

Supported devices PC, Apple Mac, iPhone/iPad, Apple TV. Price varies, apple.com/uk/itunes

* Mubi

What you get Streaming of films from a catalogue curated by film fans. The service aims to offer a more exclusive choice.

Best feature It caters to film buffs.

Supported devices PC, Apple Mac, iPhone/iPad, Android, selected smart TVs, Sony PS3. £4.99 a month, mubi.com

* Wuaki.tv

What you get On demand movies and TV shows to rent or buy.

Best feature It includes many big new releases.

Supported devices PC, Apple Mac, iPhone/iPad, Android, Chromecast, EE TV, some smart TVs, Xbox One/360. Price varies, uk.wuaki.tv

Go for glamour

Combine bold patterns, rich colours and luxurious fabrics for the ultimate in elegance



With Christmas around the corner, why not treat yourself to some beautiful new furniture or accessories?

Whether you want to redesign a whole room or add a few elegant finishing touches, Laura Ashley can help you get that wow factor with its glamorous Bronze Luxe collection.

The quintessentially British retailer may be famous for its florals, but this look is all about bold shapes and designs, from large-scale pearlescent wallpapers and statement lighting to oversized mirrors. Texture is a key element, with tactile faux fur, velvet

cushions and luxurious rugs in a seductive colour palette of copper, bronze, truffle, cinnamon and honey.

You'll find all the inspiration you need for a comfortable, super-stylish home at Laura Ashley.

Alexander Copper wallpaper, £44 a roll; Malory floor mirror, £350; Admiral Copper velvet cushion, £45; all Laura Ashley. Visit lauraashley.com to discover the rest of the Bronze Luxe collection and to find your nearest store.

LAURA ASHLEY

ASK THE EXPERTS

Email, post or tweet your questions to our panel and we'll answer in a future issue

MEET THE PANEL



CLEANING EXPERT
Helen Harrison

Home economist and former member of the Good Housekeeping Institute



CONSUMER
Teena Lyons

Journalist helping to solve readers' consumer and financial problems



GARDENING
Caroline Tilston

Designer at Oak Studio Garden Design and writer of gardening books

● We also answer questions on eco design, mortgages, consumer issues, architecture, building and more. Email your questions to beautiful@hearst.co.uk, post to House Beautiful, 72 Broadwick Street, London W1F 9EP, or tweet @HB using #asktheexperts

The trouble with moths...

Yesterday I opened my jumper drawer and saw little light brown moths crawling around! Two of my jumpers have holes in them and now I see the moths everywhere I look. How can I get rid of them?

Keeping your wardrobe pristine helps combat moths



HELEN HARRISON SAYS

Moth infestations have been on the rise in recent years. The main reasons are centrally heated homes, which moths find as welcoming as we do, an influx of cheap cashmere, silk and cotton clothing (their favourite food!), and much stricter regulations on the strength and availability of the insecticides traditionally used to combat them.

Preventing and getting rid of moths requires determination. Here's what to do:

- * Moths are attracted by sweat and bodily fluids, food remnants and other perfumed substances. Never return worn clothing to wardrobes and drawers without laundering or dry-cleaning first.
- * Keep things super-clean. Moths love grime, so vacuum or dust regularly, paying particular attention to inside wardrobes and drawers, underneath furniture and along skirting boards. Empty the

vacuum bag often, otherwise any moth eggs sucked up will hatch in there and come back out!

* Use mothballs, moth-killer strips or natural pest repellents, such as lavender and cedar bags, in areas where textiles are kept. You can make your own moth-repelling spray with a few drops of lavender oil mixed with water. Place items to be stored for some time in airtight containers or polythene vacuum bags.

* If you have an infestation, empty the entire area and clean it very thoroughly with hot soapy water, particularly along edges and crevices. All the items removed will need to be washed immediately at as high a temperature as possible to kill eggs and larvae. If the items are non-washable, put them into a plastic bag and place in the freezer for at least 72 hours. Finally, blast the room with a moth-killing smoke bomb (available from pestcontroldirect.co.uk). These contain powerful insecticides so follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

Why can't we have a long lease?

My husband and I have recently moved into a house and we're going to be renting out my old flat. There's a couple interested in moving in but they want a five-year lease. We like the idea of not having to worry about getting tenants for a very long time, but have heard that offering long rental agreements isn't a good idea. Why is that?

TEENA LYONS SAYS

From a landlord's point of view, long-term tenants can seem like a bit of a dream. The aim of the game in renting is to keep your property full all year round and a five-year lease would guarantee it.

Finding new tenants can be expensive. The downside would be if the couple pass all your background checks with flying colours but then turn out to be the tenants from hell. It can be a lengthy process to evict them, even if they stop paying rent.

A periodic tenancy may give you more flexibility. Here you'd sign a fixed-term contract for, say, a year and then if everything's all right, the tenants would remain in the property after that time under the same terms and conditions. The only difference is a new periodic

contract begins with the 'period' depending on the frequency the rent is paid. If it's paid on a month-by-month basis, your tenants will be on a one-month notice period. This will give you flexibility if you suddenly want the property vacated. Plus, if you want to increase the rent at any stage, you can do so quite quickly by terminating the periodic tenancy and putting a new agreement in place.

For the tenants, both options are attractive. With a long lease, it's nice for them to know they've got a good length of time in a property, particularly as decent rentals can be hard to find in some areas. However, the flexibility of a periodic contract works for them too, because circumstances do change and they may need to move on at short notice.

Find a tenancy agreement that works for tenants and landlord alike



Plants need less water in colder months



Winter watering

We're going on holiday for three weeks over Christmas and my neighbours who usually water my houseplants will also be away. How can I make sure the plants stay watered and alive while I'm away?

CAROLINE TILSTON SAYS

The good news is that most houseplants are dormant in the winter so won't be needing water to actively grow and flower. The problem with leaving plants at this time of year is that most automatic watering regimes will deliver too much water, which can lead to all sorts of problems, from mould and wilted brown leaves to complete collapse. 'Just enough and no more' is the mantra for watering in winter.

The easiest way to do this is to take smaller plants and place them on the draining board next to the kitchen sink on a dampened old towel. Fill the sink with water and drape the end of the towel in the water – capillary action will keep the towel damp but not wet and allow just enough moisture around the plants to make sure they're happy. As long as the plants aren't in direct sunlight this will keep them going.

With larger plants, make sure they're away from windows and other sources of heat, water them thoroughly before you leave and, in these bigger pots, there should be enough damp compost around the roots for the plants to survive well for three weeks. If in doubt, do a practice run before you go.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

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ABOUT JO



DIY EXPERT

Jo Behari

Founder of Home Jane, the UK's first home improvement company with an all-female workforce



Reviving laminate

We're updating our kitchen on a tight budget and can't afford to replace our laminate flooring, which is looking tired and sad. How could we make it look better?

Laminate is a thin non-natural product, so it's not as easy as a solid or engineered floor to bring back to life. Not all is lost, however, as you can easily repair and spruce up your laminate.

The main problem in a kitchen is dirt and grease on the floor. Make a sugar soap solution to clean the floor with a soft bristle brush. Then clean again with warm water and dry with a cloth. Be sure not to wet the floor excessively as laminate doesn't respond well to lots of water.

Once the floor is properly clean you can decide what the next step is. If you have lots of dents and scratches, fill these with the appropriately coloured

wood filler. Apply the filler to the affected area, then work in with your finger and scrape off any excess with a plastic filling knife (a metal one may scratch the floor). When this has dried, delicately sand away excess filler, being careful to avoid scratching the floor with the sandpaper. Then use a product such as HG's Laminate Power Cleaner to bring back the shine.

Finally, I'd suggest applying a protective coat to help it last; again, HG has the best product on the market – Laminate Protective Coating Gloss Finish. To keep the floor in top condition, clean regularly with a laminate cleaner and mop up spills immediately.

Best way to lag pipes

I have pipes for water and for our condensing gas boiler that go outside. With winter coming on I'd like to lag them. What's your advice?

In general, gas pipes don't need to be lagged as they aren't affected by cold weather, but the condensing pipe on your boiler is the drainage pipe, which carries water, so this will need lagging.

Frozen water in pipes won't only leave you without water but can also cause flooding and costly repairs if the pipes burst. Luckily lagging is simple to do.

Buy a foam pipe sleeve from a hardware store. These are available in 1m or 2m lengths and are usually white, black or grey. They come in specific widths, so make sure you get the right size for your pipes (normally 22mm or 15mm for water pipes). The sleeve has a full opening down one side so it can be easily slipped over the pipe.

Cut to the right length with scissors or a utility knife and use cable ties to hold in place. Trim the cable ties once they're secure. To create a corner, cut the sleeve to a 45-degree angle and slip over the corner of the pipe. **HB**



● Find more tips in Jo's book, *The Girl's Guide to DIY* (£12.99, New Holland Publishers)



Patina Dusk with
Lotus Motif, from
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NOVICE GARDENER

Even the most tender outdoor plants will survive the winter with the right care

A greenhouse will protect plants during the cooler months

Now is the perfect time to safeguard plants for winter. There are two options: either move delicate specimens into a sheltered spot, or protect plants where they're growing.

✱ BRINGING PLANTS UNDER COVER

In general, hardy plants can survive outside in winter while tender ones won't. But it's not quite as simple as that because

the temperature in cities is higher than in the countryside, and the north of the UK is colder than the south. If in doubt, err on the side of caution and protect your plants.

It really helps if tender plants are grown in containers so you can bring them indoors easily. If they're in the ground you can dig them up and put them in pots to bring inside. The ideal place for tender, outdoor plants

is a cool greenhouse. This will keep the frost off and the temperature above freezing, and make sure the plants get light and stay dry. This last point is really important as damp air and wet soil kill plants as often as freezing temperatures.

Airing the greenhouse on milder days and getting the air flowing will help to keep botrytis (grey mould) at bay. If you don't have a greenhouse, any place that can replicate greenhouse conditions would be suitable. Place plants by a window in a garage, shed or utility room, or near a window in an unheated stairwell, so they're in light, dry conditions with temperatures above freezing point.

✱ PROTECTING PLANTS OUTSIDE

If plants can't be brought in, create a sort of duvet to keep the

frost off them. Normally this is done with handfuls of straw, covered and kept in place with fleece or hessian and tied with string. Low-growing plants can just be covered up this way. Or you can construct a little tent out of bamboo to keep the fleece up off the ground. A wigwam made of bamboo and fleece and packed with straw can be put around small and medium tender plants.

The exact structure will depend on the size of the plant and its growing point – this is where new growth comes from. In a banana plant it's low down to the ground while a tree fern's new growth comes from the top.

These growing points need to be protected because if they're damaged, the plant will die. Therefore concentrate protection on these crucial areas, especially with larger plants.

For banana plants it's most important to protect the stem by packing it with straw and then wrapping fleece around it. One way to do this is to fold the leaves in on top of the crown and tie them down.

Large plants with lots of leaves, such as palms, are the trickiest to deal with. You have to tie up the foliage so it forms the protection for the growing point. The top growth may get damaged but the whole plant should survive.

With tender climbers such as passionflowers, protection should be concentrated on the lower stems. Pack them with straw using canes or wire netting to keep it in place.

As with plants brought indoors, keep an eye out for dampness and rot. The straw can become waterlogged so if there's a wet spell expected, put a waterproof cover over the plant – sheets of plastic will do.

Make sure you don't keep them there for the whole season though as they won't allow the plants to breathe and rot is almost guaranteed. Even with hessian or fleece, whenever the weather's mild, undo the ties, remove the straw and give the plant a good airing.

★ FIND MORE GARDENING ADVICE AT housebeautiful.co.uk

3 ways to protect against frost



Plastic cloche
Cover tender plants



Straw and hessian
Wrap up palms



Cold frame
Keep under glass



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OFFER 3 Rose 'Sunny Sky' Honey-yellow blooms turn to soft yellow on this elegant scented rose. Each bloom averages 10cm across, bearing up to 30 petals for a standout fruity fragrance. It's low-maintenance and will produce a strong summer display for minimal effort. Buy one bareroot for £14.99; or two bareroots for £24.98, saving £5.

Free peonies will be despatched from November 2015. All other orders will be acknowledged with a despatch date in writing, by letter or email. Offer closes 1 November 2015.

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LIVING WELL

Stylish and sustainable buys for your home



GORGEOUS WOODEN FLOORS

Make yours a solid investment with quality ecofriendly timber flooring*

1 RECLAIMED LIVING

Bert & May rescues materials from old factories, warehouses and redevelopments. There's a huge stock of floorboards, from antique parquet to distressed painted designs. **Georgian whitewash from a textile mill, £71.40 a sq metre, Bert & May; can be supplied with tongue-and-groove edging**

2 FASTER GROWING

Bamboo is harvested just five years after planting, making it an ecofriendly alternative to hardwood flooring. New from Urbane Living, this flooring has a timber grain look thanks to the way the bamboo is woven and pressed. **Bamboo Strand Woven Carbonised flooring, £35.08 a sq metre, Urbane Living**

3 SMARTER BY DESIGN

Engineered flooring has layers of recycled scrap wood with a solid hardwood top, reducing the amount of slow-growing hardwood needed. **FSC Engineered Natural Oak flooring clicks together for fast installation; £34.75 for a 1.39 sq metre pack, Homebase**

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

*SEE P104 FOR OUR FLOORING COLLECTION AT CARPETRIGHT

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LOCALLY WOVEN

Family-owned Tonder & Tonder designs and sews all its bedding and soft furnishings in England and even offers a custom-made service for unusual-sized beds. Made from 200 thread count, 100 per cent cotton percale, this elegant range comes in Taupe or Blue stripes. **Pavilion double duvet cover, £65, Tonder & Tonder**



TOTALLY ORGANIC

Cotton production is responsible for almost 16 per cent of all insecticides used on the planet – a good reason to choose organic. This stylish bedding range is made in France from 100 per cent organic cotton. **Bora double duvet cover, 130 euros, Caravane**

AFRICAN INSPIRATION

Showcasing the less familiar side of African interior design, Wolf & Apple sells lovely ethically produced accessories including textiles, prints and storage – and not a traditional hand carving in sight!



Schoolday style

The Old School Gym chest (H78cm x W80cm x D44cm), £945 from Halo, is made from strips of maple wood reclaimed from the floors of old gymnasiums. A coordinating bookcase, coffee table, side table, console table, sideboard, media unit and chest of drawers are also available.



60 seconds on... ENERGY EFFICIENT OVENS

Guy Goring, director at Everhot range cookers, talks about his passion for ecofriendly factories

Range cookers aren't famous for being especially energy efficient. What makes Everhot different? When range cookers were first manufactured, energy efficiency wasn't a priority. They were used to heat draughty farmhouses using coal and wood. We designed Everhot with energy efficiency in mind as, thanks to better insulation and central heating, there's less demand for constant heat. Our electric ranges use less than half the energy of their competitors. **Are your ovens made in the UK?**

Our Gloucestershire base was the inspiration for the Everhot's design. My father installed a water turbine at Coaley Mill in 1978 and developed the Everhot to make use of the small amount of spare electricity it produced – which was insufficient to run a conventional cooker or range. All our ovens are still made in Gloucestershire using components almost entirely produced by us or within the UK. **Is it true the factory is powered by a watermill?**

Not any more. The watermill still supplies power to the offices, but the factory has grown and has moved three miles upstream to a modern assembly plant.

What have you done to make the new factory as energy efficient and ecofriendly as possible?

The new factory has 200 solar panels, which provide most of our electricity. To ensure we're carbon negative as a business, we've planted 10,000 native trees in a 12-acre field, half a mile from the factory. In due course, thinnings from these trees will provide biomass heating for the factory and offices.

Can your products be powered by the sun, wind or water?

Originally the Everhot was designed to be used with small watermills, so its low energy consumption and 'trickle feed' design are ideally suited to sources of renewable energy. We still sell cookers to remote properties across the UK, Europe and New Zealand, where there's no mains supply and power is produced on-site by wind, water or sun. Nowadays in the UK it's quite common for our customers to have solar panels, with a typical 4kW domestic installation producing enough electricity through the year to power their Everhot.

● Visit everhot.co.uk or call 01453 890018



Gift for life

The Present Tree sells beautiful saplings, from £30, that make perfect gifts. Each of the 12 trees is chosen for its symbolism – the Wild Apple, for example, is known as the Tree of Love and giving it is a token of good health and happiness.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

BUYER'S GUIDE

BEST OF BRITISH

Transform your space with home-grown furniture and accessories.



LABOUR OF LOVE

Each Arlo & Jacob sofa, armchair and footstool is crafted from start to finish by one person. Philo Large sofa in Graffiti Birch with Natural legs, from £985



SCOTTISH WOOLLENS

The Lewis collection of rugs, shown in Lichen and Grass, is made to order in Ayrshire from Shetland and Kempy wools, £523, Turnberry Rug Works



COUNTRY FARE

Made using traditional methods by Romney Marsh Wools using fleeces from their own flock, the Marsh Fern cushion (40cm x 40cm) is £35



STYLISHLY UPHOLSTERED

Mellow Duck's Crested footstool/side table is created in Ilkley, Yorkshire, using sustainable hardwood frames; available in 35 fabrics, £95 each



PARED-BACK STYLE

The Whitstable rectangular oak coffee table by Mathers & Hirst, £675, is crafted on the Kent coast using traditional furniture-making techniques



INTO THE WOODS

Created to order in east London, the Woods Wallpaper lampshade from Love Frankie features Cole & Son's iconic Woods design, from £40



TWITTER TALK

If you're planning to buy candles for Christmas, go natural says Nicola Elliott, founder of UK company Neom Organic

@HB: What's the difference between a natural and an artificial candle?

@neom: Our candles are made from a blend of 100% natural vegetable wax and 100% natural essential oils; artificial candles include synthetic scent and paraffin wax

@HB: Does being 100% natural make them burn better or smell better?

@Neom: Yes. Natural candles burn right to the edge and all the way down to the bottom so there's no wax wastage, and our essential oil blends deliver a powerful therapeutic benefit

@HB: What's wrong with artificial wax?

@Neom: Paraffin wax is derived from petroleum, one of the biggest contributors of carbon dioxide. It produces soot that stains surfaces and can trigger respiratory issues

@HB: You mentioned the therapeutic benefits of scent. Can you give us an example?

@Neom: In sleep trials 85% fell asleep more quickly than normal after using our Scent To Sleep fragrance, Tranquillity

@HB: So which scents can help wake us up?

@Neom: Citrus oils are the best for naturally energising

@HB: And finally, any tips on making scented candles last longer and burn evenly?

@Neom: Keep wicks trimmed to avoid tunnelling and don't burn a candle for too long – 2-4 hours is plenty for the therapeutic scent to fill the air

● For more information, visit neomorganics.com **HB**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE


COUNTRY LIVING
magazine

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10 WAYS TO CLIMATE-PROOF YOUR HOME

Britain's best-loved builder Tommy Walsh
shares his expert advice on protecting your
home through all four seasons





Your property has to withstand different weather conditions all year round

Monsoon-like rains, freezing ice and snow, and record-breaking heat – our weather conditions have an effect on the fabric of our homes. But a few simple maintenance tasks can prevent problems. As Tommy explains: ‘A little forward planning and carrying out a few jobs over the year will help to keep your home in top condition.’

1 LEAFY DELUGE

Falling autumn leaves can cause havoc as blocked gutters allow rainwater to seep into brickwork, causing damage. ‘Clean your gutters thoroughly before November,’ says Tommy. ‘I use a potting trowel duct-taped to a broom handle to scoop out debris into a bucket before running a hose along the gutter to make sure everything is clear. Get a contractor in if you’re not confident with ladders and never go up one on your own.’

‘A gutter mesh keeps leaves out so is a good investment in the spring. Clean the gully and downpipes too. It isn’t a pleasant task, but if you put your hand in a plastic bag before you push it inside you can lift out the gunk without getting covered!’

2 HEAVY RAIN

Minimise rain damage by making sure your house is as much of a barrier to water as possible. ‘Giving your home a thorough MOT at least every five years will highlight potential issues before they turn into expensive problems! Get your roof checked and make sure it has flashings to aid water run-off and that chimney stacks are in good condition. This isn’t something you can do yourself, but you mustn’t ignore it, as potential damage will only get worse. As well as tile repairs and flashing, ask your contractor to check the cement work around chimney pots – as it’s a weak point water loves.’

3 RELENTLESS DRIZZLE

Heavy rain and floods grab the headlines, but it’s constant fine rain that can really cause damage. ‘Before the end of summer, poke your head in the loft; if you can see daylight, get it fixed while it’s still dry! It’s important to check the quality of the mastic seams between your doors, windows and walls too. Fine rain always finds the cracks and any water will slowly rot timber windows. Again, making sure your wood and paintwork is in good condition before the rainy months can save you thousands. Resealing and touching up window frames is an easy enough DIY job.’

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

HOME COMFORTS

Stylish living ideas



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Offer expires on 27.10.15.



COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

A Snowman is joined by inquisitive animals on a snowy winters day.

This Bone China mug is printed from a Watercolour painting by Jenny Bell.

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‘When it comes to clearing snow, use salt – never water – and buy a big bag before winter,’ SAYS TOMMY

4 WINTRY CONDITIONS

Freezing temperatures can cause your mortar to crumble. Heavy rain followed by freezing conditions causes the water to expand in any cracks in the brickwork. Over time this will cause the brick to start crumbling away. This is known as spalling.

Period properties with lime mortar are particularly at risk as the mortar is soft like a sponge. It's vital that your pointing is in good condition and the angle of the mortar pushes water away from the face of the bricks. If you live in a snowy region, the chances are that your roof will have been designed to cope with heavy snowfall. For the rest of us, a few inches of snow won't cause many problems if your house has been well-maintained.

‘When it comes to clearing snow use salt – never water – and buy a big bag before winter. Keep it in the shed. It always pays to think ahead and not be caught short!’

5 FROZEN SPELLS

It's vital to insulate pipes in the attic and crawl spaces, especially those that lie above the traditional loft insulation as they're most susceptible. Don't forget to lag the cold-water tank if you have one – it's cheap and easy to do (see page 178 to find out

how). ‘If there's a cold snap expected you can leave the loft hatch open to allow warmer air to rise up and prevent the cold water tank from freezing. If you're going away it might be advisable to drain the cold water system, not the central heating, so if a pipe does burst it won't ruin your house. And always keep the central heating thermostat at a minimum of 10 degrees.’

6 FLASH FLOODS

If you live in a susceptible area it's worth taking precautions against flooding. More heavy-duty flood defences – for instance special doors, air brick covers and removable flood gates – are worth considering if your home is on a flood plain. Some insurance companies insist on adequate protection.

‘When I lived in a flood zone in east London, we built our own flood defences across the doors, which gave us 2ft 6in grace before disaster... but, as we found out, it only worked if we were in the house at the time! Have a plumber fit non-return valves to drains and pipes, as this can prevent dirty water being forced up and into your home.

‘You can help reduce the impact of flooding by ensuring proper drainage and using permeable materials in the garden. The best solution is to install a gully drain across



Keep windows in good condition to protect against autumn drizzle

your driveway that funnels water into a tank or soakaway. Whatever you do, avoid laying concrete as this just makes the flooding worse. Instead use gravel or just lay enough paving slabs for the car to park on.’

7 HIGH WINDS

There's plenty you can do to stop wind damage. For a start check the condition of your roof tiles by asking your neighbours opposite if you can take a look from their upstairs windows. Use a pair of binoculars and check for any obvious slipped or cracked tiles and get them repaired before the winter. ‘Garden fences aren't covered by most

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‘If your house faces the sun for most of the day, you’ll need to decorate the outside every three to five years,’ SAYS TOMMY

insurance companies, so make sure yours is built properly. A well-constructed fence should have a mix of solid panels and trellis to allow the wind to blow through it so it doesn’t act like a huge sail.

‘But if your fence has seen better days, or does get blown down, you can do a quick repair with a simple 45 degree timber brace screwed securely into a stake. It should hold until you get a chance to do a proper repair.’

It’s also important to deal with potentially dangerous trees. ‘Check with the council that there’s no tree protection order before you start pruning branches, and always chat with your neighbours before dealing with overhanging branches.’

8 BLISTERING SUN

Summer sunshine may be lovely but the sun can do terrible things to woodwork – fading colour, flaking and blistering it over time. ‘As a general rule, if your house faces the sun for most of the day you’ll need to decorate the outside every three to five years. Do it in springtime to avoid the paint cracking. I’m a fan of traditional oil-based paints as they give a harder finish, and need fewer coats compared to water-based, although they’re not as good for the planet. But whichever paint you use, the finish will only ever be as

good as the preparation you put in first. ‘If you have traditional sash windows the sun can dry out and crack the putty, pulling it away from the frame. If you don’t tackle the problem in the summer you’ll risk water damage when the rains start to fall.’

9 SOARING HEAT

Although extreme temperatures seldom happen here, they can still cause problems with felt roofs. ‘Small cracks will allow dew to penetrate and sun exposure can cause the felt to expand and blister. Don’t ignore it or you’ll find rainwater dripping through the roof in no time.

‘Lead flashings are also susceptible to shrinkage in hot weather, but a good roofer should have made allowances for both hot and cold conditions.’

10 DRY SPELLS

‘Assuming you’ve planned ahead and tackled all the little jobs over the year, when summer finally arrives the most important thing you can do is sit back and relax! I recommend you check that the barbecue is in good condition and the fridge is well-stocked with cold drinks. You know the nice weather won’t last for long so make the most of your home and enjoy all your hard work.’ **HB**

TOMMY’S home maintenance checklist

Take time to carry out these tasks so your home stays protected

SPRING

- Clean gutters and downpipes
- Inspect the roof and chimney for cracks and damage
- Touch up peeling or damaged paint

SUMMER

- Prune trees and shrubs
- Repair or replace broken fence panels
- Repair any broken window seals

AUTUMN

- Clean gutters (again!)
- Check windows and doors for weathertightness
- Book in a boiler service

WINTER

- Stock up on road salt
- Double-check your cold water pipes are insulated
- Hunt down any draughts and seal them quickly

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COOK'S NOTE

✦ This salad of crisp unripe papaya ribbons and spicy lime dressing is perfect on its own or is a perfect base for seared prawns, sliced beef or sticky pork belly.

EAT GLOBAL

Tasty dishes inspired by the aromas, spices and flavours of street food from around the world, all adapted for home cooking

Green papaya & carrot salad

SERVES 4

1 green papaya, about 400g, peeled
4 garlic cloves
3 small red chillies, sliced
1 large carrot, peeled and julienned
50g baby green beans, halved
125ml lime juice
2tbsp firmly packed grated palm sugar (jaggery) or soft brown sugar
1½tbsp fish sauce

6 cherry tomatoes, halved
40g coarsely chopped roasted peanuts or cashews

1 Halve papaya lengthways and scrape out the seeds. Using a julienne tool or large grater, coarsely shred the flesh. If you're using a box grater, use it on the side of the sink to get long fat shreds of the papaya. Discard inner part of the fruit and set aside the

shredded green papaya.

2 Pound the garlic and chillies in a large mortar and pestle for 1min or until coarsely crushed (it should still have chunks and not be a paste). Add the papaya, carrot and beans and gently pound a little more. Add the lime juice, palm sugar* and fish sauce and pound again for another minute. Add the tomato and taste to make sure it has enough fish sauce and

sugar; it should be tangy, sweet and spicy. Place on a platter, scatter the nuts over the top and serve immediately.

*Palm sugar, sold in tubs at Asian grocery stores, adds a caramel taste to dressings and curries. It can be rock hard, so heat it for a few seconds in a microwave to soften, then chop off a piece and grate it so it dissolves much faster. Use soft brown sugar if you can't get it.

Spice-crusted chicken with pomegranate salad

SERVES 4

750g boneless, skinless chicken thighs
1tbsp olive oil
1½tbsp Aleppo pepper (also known as Turkish chilli flakes)
1½tbsp sumac
1tsp ground cinnamon
1tsp cumin seeds
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
Finely grated zest of 2 lemons
2tbsp pine nuts
Rice vermicelli pilaff (see below), to serve
Greek-style yogurt, to serve
POMEGRANATE SALAD
Seeds of 1 pomegranate
1 small onion, halved and sliced into half moons
A few flat-leaf parsley leaves
1tsp sumac

- 1 Preheat the oven to 200°C (180°C fan, gas mark 6).
- 2 Put the chicken, oil, spices, garlic, lemon zest and salt and pepper in a bowl and mix to coat the chicken. Spread out on a baking tray and roast for 25-30min until cooked and golden at the edges. During the last 7min of cooking, scatter the pine nuts over the chicken.
- 3 Toss the salad ingredients together and serve with chicken, the Pilaff and yogurt.

Rice vermicelli pilaff

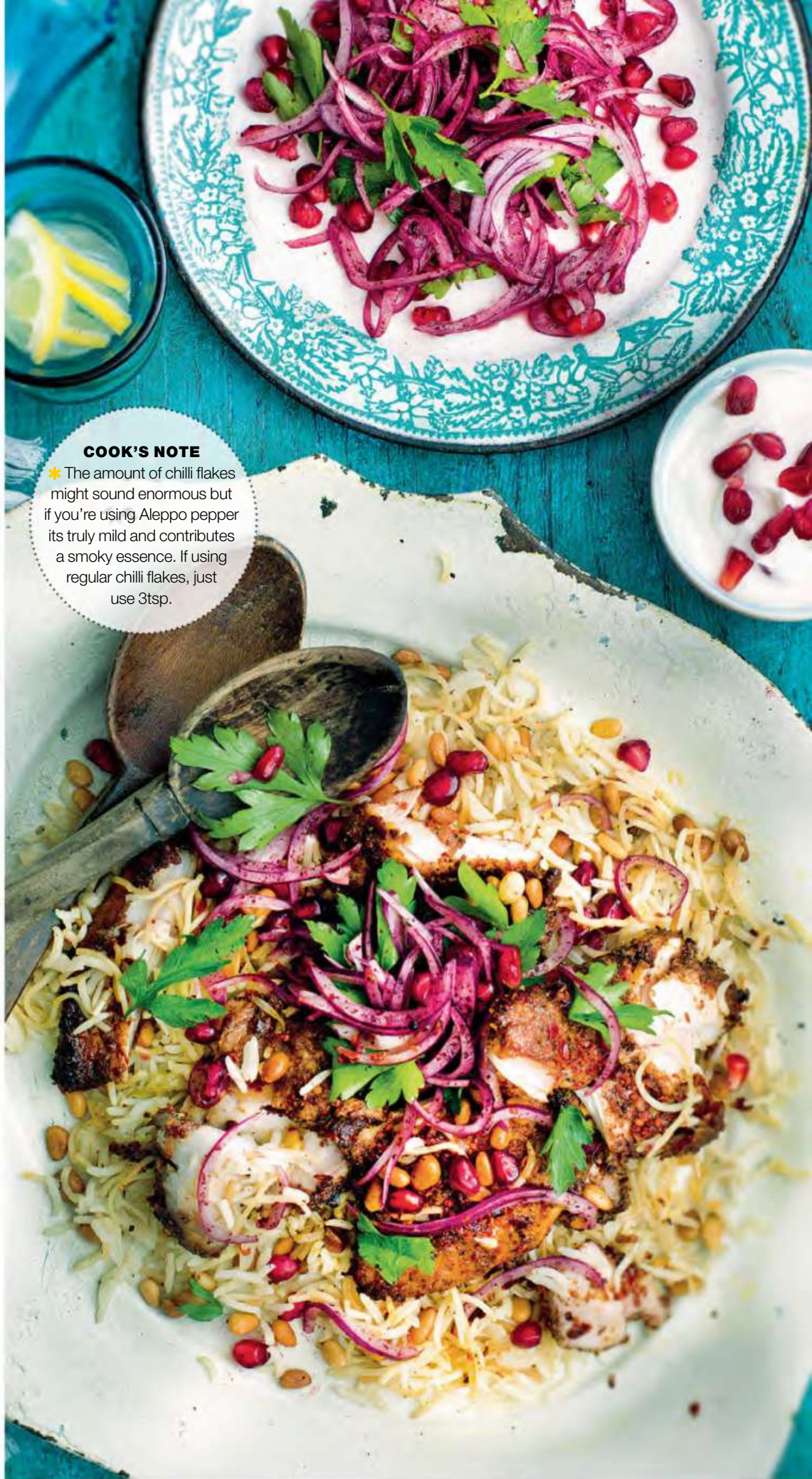
SERVES 4-6 AS A SIDE

- 1 Put 50g dried vermicelli egg noodles in a frying pan and dry-fry, shaking constantly, over low heat for 3-4min until golden, then remove from the heat.
- 2 Heat 1tbsp olive oil and 20g butter in a heavy-based saucepan over medium heat. Add 2 thinly sliced onions, season and cook for 10min or until golden. Add 250g basmati rice and the toasted noodles and stir for 1min, then add 600ml veg or chicken stock.
- 3 Cover, reduce heat and cook for 15min. Remove pan from heat and use a fork to fluff rice.

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COOK'S NOTE

✱ The amount of chilli flakes might sound enormous but if you're using Aleppo pepper its truly mild and contributes a smoky essence. If using regular chilli flakes, just use 3tsp.





COOK'S NOTE

✳ To make this ahead of time, crisp the chorizo earlier in the day, cover and refrigerate. Everything else can be quickly pan-fried just before serving.

Prawns with chorizo, chilli, lemon & parsley

SERVES 4

150g raw chorizo sausages, cut into 1cm slices
1tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
400g large raw prawns, butterflied
1tsp chilli flakes
Juice and finely grated

zest of 1 lemon
2tbsp finely chopped flat-leaf (Italian) parsley
Crusty bread and chargrilled lemon halves, to serve

1 Heat a large frying pan over medium heat. Add the chorizo and cook for 3-4min or until

crisp and the oil is released. Remove from the pan and discard most of the oil.

2 Add the olive oil to the pan and reduce the heat to medium-low. Cook the sliced garlic for 1min or until just starting to colour.

3 Increase the heat to high,

then add the prawns and chilli flakes and toss for 1min. Add the lemon juice and chorizo and toss for another minute or until the prawns are opaque.

4 Sprinkle the zest and parsley over the prawns and serve immediately with crusty bread and chargrilled lemon halves.

Beef chow fun

SERVES 4

500g piece beef skirt (onglet), flank or bavette
1tsp bicarbonate of soda
1tsp cornflour
3tsp soy sauce
400g wide fresh rice noodles or 250g dried rice noodles
2tbsp sesame oil
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
3tsp minced ginger
250g Asian greens such as Chinese broccoli (gai larn) or choy sum, cut into 2.5cm pieces
2 large handfuls of fresh beansprouts
4 spring onions, thinly sliced, to serve

SAUCE

2tbsp light soy sauce
2tbsp kecap manis (Indonesian sweet soy sauce)
1tbsp black bean sauce
2tbsp oyster sauce
2tbsp shaoxing rice wine

1 Wrap the beef tightly in plastic wrap and freeze for 30min to make it easier to slice. Thinly slice the beef against the grain and place in a bowl. Add the bicarbonate of soda, cornflour and soy sauce, then season with freshly ground black pepper. Combine well and set aside for 15min.

2 Meanwhile, make the sauce by combining the ingredients in a bowl. Set aside.

3 If using fresh noodles, rinse

in warm water to break up, then cut in half lengthways. If using dried noodles, put them in a bowl and cover with warm water. Stand for 10min, then drain. They will still be firm but will cook through in the pan.

4 Heat 2tsp of the sesame oil in a large wok or frying pan over high heat. Cook half of the beef for 1-2min until nicely browned. Remove from the pan and repeat with another

2tsp of oil and the remaining beef, then wipe the pan clean.

5 Add the remaining oil, and the garlic and ginger and cook over medium heat for 1min or until golden. Add the chopped Asian greens and stir-fry for 1min. Return beef to pan, add the noodles, sauce and beansprouts and toss for 2min or until heated through. Serve with the spring onion on the side to scatter over.

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COOK'S NOTE

✱ You can buy the noodles for this dish fresh or dried from Asian grocery stores. To add spice, chop up a red chilli to stir-fry with the garlic.





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Cocoa & almond meringues with fudge sauce & coffee ice cream

SERVES 8

3 egg whites, at room temperature
180g caster sugar
1tsp white wine vinegar
50g blanched almonds, toasted, finely chopped
3tsp unsweetened cocoa powder

COFFEE ICE CREAM

1tbsp instant espresso coffee powder
500ml vanilla ice cream, left to soften slightly

CHOCOLATE FUDGE SAUCE

100g dark chocolate (70% cocoa), chopped
150ml thick (double) cream
30g unsalted butter
80ml golden syrup
100g caster sugar
1tsp natural vanilla extract

1 Preheat oven to 170°C (150°C fan, gas mark 3). Line two baking trays with baking paper.

2 It's very important to have a spotlessly clean bowl to start so wash it in hot water and dry it well. Using an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, whisk the egg white until soft peaks form. Start adding the sugar, 1tbsp at a time, until it is all incorporated and the whites are glossy and stiff. Gently fold in the vinegar until just combined. Use a spatula to fold through half of the almonds and half of the cocoa powder so the mixture has a swirled appearance.

3 Make 16 individual slightly flattened meringues by spooning tablespoon-sized dollops of the mixture onto the prepared trays, leaving 5cm between each one. Sprinkle with the remaining almonds and cocoa. Turn the oven down to 140°C (120°C fan, gas mark 1). Bake for 35min, then turn the oven off and leave the meringues in the oven for 2hr: this will help them stay chewy and not hard.

4 To make the coffee ice cream, line a 20cm x 30cm tin

COOK'S NOTE

✱ Make the sandwiches in full up to 3 days ahead. Store in the freezer in a covered container until ready to serve.



Recipes taken from *My Street Food Kitchen* by Jennifer Joyce (£18.99, Murdoch Books) with photography by Jean Cazals.

with baking paper. Put the coffee and 1tbsp of the ice cream in a large bowl and stir until dissolved. Add the remaining ice cream and stir until well combined. Spread the ice cream out in the prepared tin, smooth the top and return to the freezer until you are ready to make the sandwiches.

5 Meanwhile, to make the

fudge sauce, put the chocolate, cream and butter in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan of just simmering water, making sure the base of the bowl doesn't touch the water. Stir until melted, then add the syrup, sugar and vanilla. When nearly boiling (still over the saucepan) turn the heat down to low and

simmer for 5min or until the sauce is thick. Remove from the heat and set aside to cool.

6 Spread the flat side of the meringues with a good couple of teaspoons of chocolate sauce. Use a knife or pastry cutter to cut out circles of ice cream and sandwich between 2 meringues. Return to the freezer until firm again. **HB**

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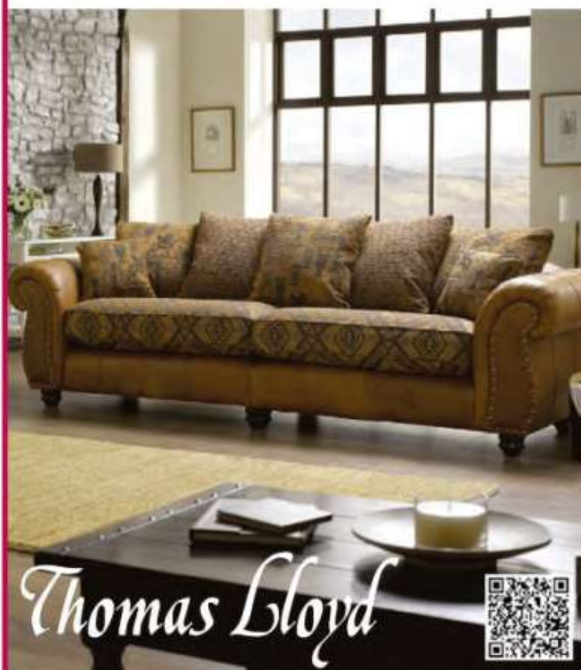
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FLOOR SHOW

Product details from the new House Beautiful collection at Carpetright feature on page 104

ELEGANT LOOKS, page 105

Sofa one, from £3,590; small **stars cushion** square, £125; **Pitcher**, £58; Workstead floor **lamp**, £725; all Another Country. Tabouret Solvay **stool** by Vitra in natural oak, £479; Nova Herringbone **throw** by David Fussenegger, £65; both Heal's. Harbour **stripe cushion**, £65; Broadway round **tray**, £30; both Tori Murphy. Stoneware ceramic **teapot**, £36; **Kami mug**, £55; **Cara plate**, £38; all Native and Co

RUGS, page 106

Walls painted Gauze Deep matt **emulsion**, £37 for 2.5L, Little Greene. Nest **bowl**, £22, French Connection. **Scissors**, £6; **Cara bowl** small, £52; both Native and Co. Whitstable low **stool**, £125, Heal's

CONTEMPORARY COMFORT, page 107

Gauze Deep matt **emulsion**, £37 for 2.5L, Little Greene. Tweed **wallpaper**, £60 a roll, Sandberg. Antique copper **side table**, £130; Gunmetal fisheye **mirror**, £125; both French Connection. Odin **armchair**, £650, Graham and Green. Wilson **reading lamp**, £110; Grey herringbone merino and cashmere **throw**, £130; both Heal's. **Kami cup** small, £40, Native and Co. **Vase**, folded craft vase, £40, John Lewis, is similar.

ARTISAN WOOD, page 108

Muuto wood **lamp**, £129, Houseology

SMART LIVING, page 109

Brunel **desk** by Rob Scarlett, £495, Heal's. **Cara mug**, £55, Native and Co. Monochrome masking **tape**, £3.50 each, Present and Correct. Black vintage **globe**, £275, Graham and Green. Retro **chair**, £70, Graham and Green. **Basket**, find similar at notonthehighstreet.com



PAULA PRYKE

The famous florist, 55, lives with her architect husband Peter Romaniuk, 59, and their daughters Lizzie, 15, and Anne, 13, in an old post office – complete with red phone box



The ex-post office home came with its very own red phone box in the garden; taupe walls throughout the house provide an understated background to lots of vibrant colour



WHERE I LIVE

I'd just finished arranging flowers at Delia Smith's home in Norfolk in 2002 when I decided to detour via a pretty village in Suffolk near where I'd lived as a child, and noticed the post office was for sale. Peter and I were looking for a weekend bolthole to escape London and we'd been hoping for a thatched cottage, but in reality they're often dark with low beams that Peter would keep hitting his head on!

Although the post office still had the counter and shop shelves, it was almost derelict. It is Victorian, around 130 years old, and just a plain brick building, so not the chocolate box house of my dreams. But I loved its history and the fact there was an old red phone box in the front garden.

We bought it in December 2002 and during the renovations, as light started to flood in, we realised it had the makings of a great family home, so decided to move in full time.

An old cart shed has been turned into a downstairs bedroom and bathroom and we added a large garden room. In the kitchen, at the front of the house, we've mixed old and new by installing a black traditional Aga against a black Ikea kitchen.

Peter chose taupe as the wall colour throughout: I think it's a friendlier version of grey and it allows us to use colour in our carpets, furniture and cushions, and of course my flowers, to maximum effect.

The red phone box doesn't work, but I sometimes see ramblers inside it, trying to make a call, and it makes me smile.

MY INSPIRATION

There's definitely a flower theme in the house. It's there in the colourful fabric curtains with massive bright peonies and tulips in the bedrooms and new extension, as well as in the artwork on the walls.

When I opened my first flower shop, artist Mary Woodin painted me a glass vase of sweet peas, which I used in advertising. I buy her beautiful botanical prints for the house.

I also have paintings of poppy fields, bluebell woods and cottage gardens by Paul Evans, who has a gallery nearby in

Paula opted for a black Ikea kitchen; amaryllis is her festive flower of choice; she likes to use olive and pickle jars as vases



Lavenham, and beautiful photographs from my first two books taken by Kevin Summers.

Of course, I have an amazing collection of vases, including brown olive jars from Provence and large English pickle jars, which match our taupe scheme and add character.

Our front garden isn't that big, but we have traditional cottage flowers such as roses, clematis and honeysuckle. I've also planted philadelphus orange blossom – my favourite scent when I was growing up.

Inside, I adore peonies, sweet peas and roses, but I often choose flowers that will last a long time once cut, such as long-stemmed lilies. In the bathrooms there are scented flowers such as hyacinths and freesias.

FAMILY LIFE

Although our home is open plan, we have two distinct areas. The front is a kitchen and sofa area, and we have a home cinema around the open fireplace, where the girls and I watch films or play the piano. The extension at the back is a more adult, entertaining area where we can sit and read the paper or invite friends around for a drink.

Christmas is our favourite time of year and the girls and I create our own wreaths to hang on the front door while listening to festive music. We love this so much that I've launched my own ready-to-make kits.

We always have amaryllis, my favourite Christmas flower, as well as berries, contorted willow and usually roses. For a festive look I like to be bold, mixing deep reds, oranges and pink roses. My guess is that grey is going to be a big theme this year. I also love to fill the house with scent, especially jasmine.

I'm so happy my daughters love flower arranging. It's a great way to spend a family afternoon, with music, chat and laughter. **H&B**

● See Paula's work at paulapryke.com

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**FITTED
IN TIME FOR
CHRISTMAS**

NEVILLE JOHNSON
DESIGN WITHOUT COMPROMISE

A hand from the top left corner is pouring a golden liquid from a teapot. The liquid is falling towards the text. The background is a solid teal color. In the foreground, there are two white wooden chairs with dark wood spindles. One chair is on the left, and the other is on the right, partially obscured by a white table. A large, light blue cube sits between the two chairs. To the right of the cube is a white table with a dark wood chair. A large, light blue pyramid is in the background. A string of five small, round, golden ornaments hangs from the top right. The text 'MADE+ YOU LOOK' is in large, white, sans-serif font. Below it, 'SURPRISE YOUR HOME THIS CHRISTMAS' is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

MADE+ YOU LOOK

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HouseBeautiful

CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

Home ★ Food ★ Garden ★ Gadgets ★ Toys



CHRISTMAS GIFTS SORTED

Children will love receiving their own personalised Christmas sack on the big morning. Personalised Bryanston Christmas sack by Harrow & Green, £22, notonthehighstreet.com



PHOTOGRAPHS GAP INTERIORS/DAN DUCHARS; OLIVER GORDON



WELCOME



It's never too early to start your search for the perfect Christmas present, especially when you have a long list of people to buy for. Choosing a gift that will be treasured takes just the right amount of planning, thought and inspiration. This year, we've divided the gift guide into handy sections to make sure there's something for everyone. So whether your friends and family are gadget lovers or keen gardeners, this free magazine makes it a little simpler to spread the joy on Christmas morning. Happy searching!

Karen Stylianides
Supplement Editor

4 SOLUTIONS FOR STYLE SEEKERS

A wealth of ideas for interior design addicts

10 FABULOUS FINDS FOR FOODIES

Clever equipment and tasty treats for food lovers

15 IDEAS FOR HAPPY HORTICULTURISTS

Practical and inspiring gifts to delight gardeners

20 PERFECT PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN

From toddlers to teens, there's something to make them happy

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The most exciting finds in the world of gadgets

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Your stockist guide

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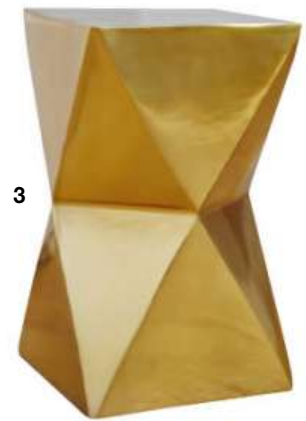
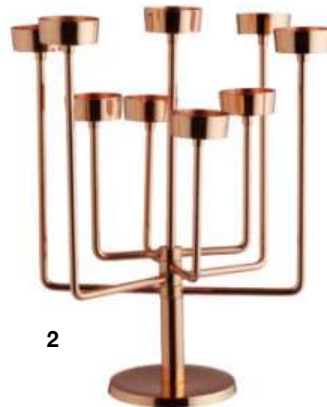


SOLUTIONS FOR STYLE SEEKERS

*Perfect presents to delight friends who have
a passion for their home*



TRAY CHIC A gift that gleams. Hammered round gold tray, £45; hammered rectangle copper tray, £17; both Oliver Bonas (from November)



1 ON REFLECTION An eyecatching frame turns this handcrafted mirror into a piece of wall art. Elegant Script Swirl mirror, £34.99, Dunelm **2 TREE LIGHTS** Copper and candlelight create an impressive centrepiece that glows with warmth. Klein tealight holder, £60, Habitat **3 OPEN DOOR POLICY** A gift that's functional as well as decorative will always be welcome. This weighty steel doorstop with an antique brass finish also doubles as a sculpture to display on a desk, bookshelf or side table. Geo doorstop (H23cm), £54, West Elm



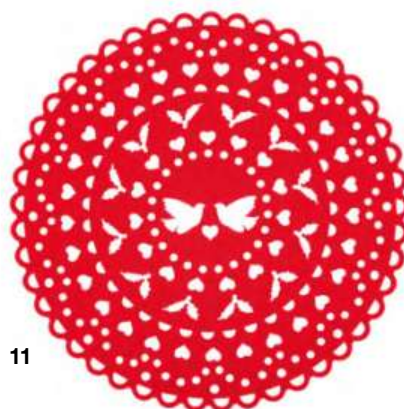
4 MIDAS TOUCH Make someone feel decadent with this extra-special mug. Shiny Gold Swallow mug, £10, Rockett St George **5 TOUCH OF LUXURY** Cutlery that's glamorous and dishwasher safe is a great gift for someone who loves entertaining. It's ten times more scratch resistant than uncoated stainless steel. Viners Rose Gold Titanium cutlery, £99 for a 16-piece set, Very **6 PRECIOUS FRUIT** This beautiful box is ideal for storing delicate treasures. Gold apple trinket pot, £12.50, Oliver Bonas



7 PLACE A CALL Push-button dialling and a metallic finish give this retro design a modern twist. Copper phone, £64.95, John Lewis **8 CHARMING LIGHT** Perfect for someone who loves exotic style. Silver Moroccan lantern, £49.99, Wyevale Garden Centres **9 BRIGHT METAL** After the fresh notes of the pink pepper and fresh sage balsam fragrance are gone, this candle's exotic vessel can be used as a flower vase. Muse d'or perfumed candle, £88, Jonathan Adler *Continued over page*



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10 HOME COMFORT This oversized cushion was handknitted in soft lambswool in the north of England. Giant House cushion, £140, Donna Wilson **11 IN SILHOUETTE** Red tablemats with a cut-out design have a Scandinavian look. Placemats, £15 for four, Marks & Spencer **12 A TOUCH OF BRILLIANCE** Bring vibrant pattern to a friend's home with this painterly design created exclusively for House Beautiful by Fi Douglas. Portree Beaumont cushion including luxurious feather pad, £70, Bluebellgray



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13 WARM AS TOAST A plaid throw adds pattern, style and comfort to a living room as well as being handy for cuddling up under on cold, winter nights in front of the TV. Orange and navy check throw, £16, Sainsbury's **14 STAND TALL** A simple glass design in a bold shade will please for years to come. LSA mouthblown glass jug, £25.95, Annabel James **15 CRAFT REVIVAL** Woven with a mix of colours, this is a beautiful piece. Damson basket in three sizes, from £25, Sophie Conran



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16 READY TO POUR Snuggle up with a cup of tea on a wintry afternoon. Tapestry teapot, £15, BHS **17 MONTHLY JOY** Take out a gift subscription to House Beautiful for a present that will last all year long. See page 120 of the main issue for details **18 FABULOUS FIFTIES** These ecofriendly little trays feature mid-century-style motifs. They work well as coasters too. The Modern Home bamboo mini trays, £14.99 for four, The Oak Room *Continued over next page*

LUSCIOUS BERRIES

Create a festive arrangement for a friend with these faux red berry branches, £18.75 each, Nordic House





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19 TUNE IN Retro styling and modern technology are a winning combination. View Quest Retro portable DAB radio and Bluetooth speaker in Emma Bridgewater's Black Toast print, £79.99, QVC **20 BEJEWELLED** Available in your choice of colours, the gem-like decorations on these spoons make them a delightfully individual gift. Demi-tasse coffee spoons, £15 each, Travelling Souk **21 ART OF GLASS** A limited edition craftsman-made present will be treasured by its recipient. Green perfume bottle, £95, Royal Academy



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22 SEASON TO TASTE Salt or coarsely ground pepper can be presented in a colourful and contemporary pot. Stainless-steel enamelled cruet with spoon, £19, Travelling Souk **23 FLOWER BEARER** Flexible in every sense, this silicone container can be used as a flower holder, for storage on a dressing table or as a desk tidy. Kontur vase, £17, Travelling Souk **24 SWEETLY AROMATIC** Perfume the air with a subtle floral scent. Laura Ashley Royal Bloom fragrance diffuser, £20, Boots



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25 BLUE NOTE A mid-century-style ceramic vase is decorative with or without flowers. Dickens & Jones blue printed vase, £25, House of Fraser **26 WINTER GLOW** This festive metallic candleholder will become a much-loved seasonal favourite for livening up a dinner table or mantelpiece. Stag candleholder, £45, Marks & Spencer **27 SHINE ON** Richly coloured glass makes a stunning statement; orange and purple options are also available. Decorative recycled glass bottles, £27 for a set of two, Very

SHADOW PLAY

A pierced porcelain lantern transforms the glow from a candle into a display of scattered light. Bella and Bertha votives, from £35 each, Sophie Conran





FABULOUS FINDS FOR FOODIES

*Please food lovers with this selection of clever
equipment and tasty treats*

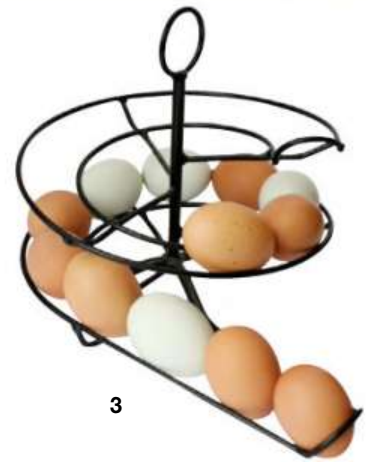




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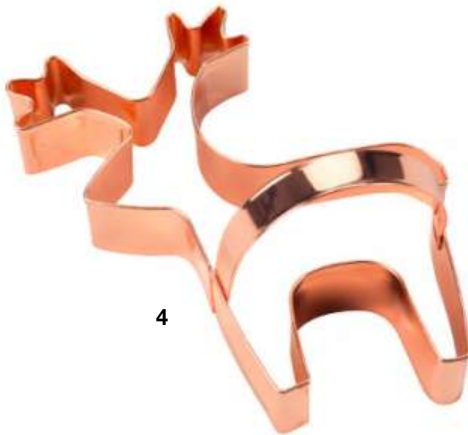


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OPPOSITE PET PRINTS A bone china mug perfect for dog lovers. Red dachshund mug, £14; red dachshund tea towel, £14, Emily Bond
1 FRESHLY PICKED Kitchen textiles in a striking design refresh any kitchen scheme. Vegetables apron, £21, Lush Designs **2 MINUTE MINDER** Accurate timing ensures everything is cooked to perfection. American Diner tomato timer, £3.50, Tesco **3 ON A ROLL** This spiral holder refills from the top to ensure you use eggs in the right order. Egg Skelter, £23.95, Annabel James



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4 TAKE SHAPE Biscuits, pastry and fondant icing can be cut in the form of arctic animals. Copper cookie cutters, £2.50 each, Sainsbury's **5 BURNISHED METAL** Introduce copper highlights to the dinner table for a warm glowing look that's right on trend. Copper-effect chilli, salt and pepper grinders, £14 the set, Next **6 INSIDE STORY** Dual-purpose items deserve a place in any smart kitchen. Wooden cheeseboard with knives, £24.99, Creative Tops



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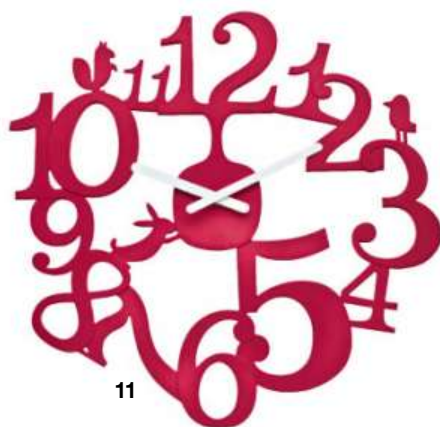


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7 FANCY A CUPPA? Keen tea drinkers will appreciate a pot with its own removable strainer. Fritz teapot, £22, Alison Appleton **8 VINTAGE VALUES** Simple, practical and with homely good looks, enamel cookware is a traditional favourite. Gift set with five pie dishes, a pair of oven gloves and a tote bag, £72.50, Falcon **9 SHARP OPERATORS** These steak knives have serrated stainless-steel blades and wooden handles. Set of four coloured wood Steak Knives, £17.95, Rigby & Mac *Continued over page*



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OPPOSITE COPPER FEEL A stylish collection for keen bakers. From top: mixing bowls, from £5 each; cookie cutters, from £2 each; measuring spoons, £5; measuring cups, £6; all Sainsbury's **10 EASY TO WRAP** This chic mug comes with its own box. Chroma china mug, £10.95, Caroline Gardner **11 TICKING ON** With a quirky cut-out design, this Pip wall clock, £33.50, Ziggi Ziggi, will ensure Christmas runs on time **12 TASTE OF ITALY** A seasonal speciality, this sweet yeast bread is a delicious treat. Pandoro cake, £16.95, Carluccio's



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13 WEIGHTY MATTER Retro designs give modern kitchens a stylish edge. Wesco scales with clock, £84.95, Ziggi Ziggi **14 SWEET TREATS** Hide a chocolate novelty under the tree for an extra festive surprise. Chocolate Christmas Trees in Crackle, Ginger and Caramel Popcorn varieties, £8.50 each, Chococo **15 DRESSING UP** Drizzle aromatic oils and balsamic vinegar on everyday foods for extra flavour. Trio oil and vinegar rack, £16, BHS



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16 SEASONAL STYLE Napkins printed with a perky robin motif will bring a note of Christmas cheer. Robin & Mistletoe cotton napkins, £13 for four, Sophie Allport **17 BREAKFAST BONUS** Turn fresh pork into delicious home-cured rashers. Homemade Bacon Curing Kit, £24.99, The Oak Room **18 COUNTRY CHARACTER** This vintage-style container will perch on the kitchen shelf to hold tea bags or biscuits. Ceramic Owl storage jar, £30, Laura Ashley *Continued over next page*





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19 QUICK WORK Hand-held appliances cut down food preparation time – this powerful one has five speeds and a pulse function. KMix HM791 hand mixer, £69.98, Kenwood **20 EASY READER** Elegant, understated accessories are key to a modern interior. Copper white wall clock, £55, Rigby & Mac **21 STIRRING STUFF** Colour-coded tools brighten up the kitchen and make cooking easier. Bamboo utensils set, £35, The Contemporary Home



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22 CHOP, CHOP Produced by prison inmates, these wooden boards have a rustic charm and help their makers develop valuable skills. Mobster Bat oak chopping board, £35, Rough Stuff **23 SUPER SOMMELIERS** Cork the bottle to keep leftover wine for longer. Waiter wine stoppers, £15 for two, Habitat **24 BLACK MAGIC** Not just for tea time, a tiered stand is a great way to serve cheese and canapés as well as cake. Welsh slate cakestand, £44.94, Make The Most Of



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25 CATERING FOR A CROWD Enamelled cookware transfers beautifully from oven to table. Purple 3.3L cast-iron casserole dish, £30, Sainsbury's **26 TOOL KIT** Choose ethically produced sustainable materials and give with a clear conscience. Fair Forward wooden kitchen utensils, from £12.50 each, SCP **27 COOL CLASSIC** Whole spices are ground with ease with this stylish design. Marble pestle and mortar, £32, Laura Ashley



IDEAS FOR HAPPY HORTICULTURISTS

These practical and inspiring gifts will delight plant and flower lovers



IN GOOD ORDER Galvanised Gubbins tins, also in Duck Egg Blue and Grey, will help sort mini bits of garden paraphernalia, £19.95, sophieconran.com

Continued over page



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1 STEP OUTSIDE Easy to slip on and off, waterproof clogs in a wild flower pattern keep feet clean and dry. Meadow shoes, £20, Backdoorshoes **2 PEANUT PIT STOP** A regular supply of food will encourage birds to visit, bringing the garden to life. Peanut Bird Feeder in lime green ceramic, £48.95, Willow & Stone **3 CLEAN SWEEP** There will be no more excuses for treading mud into the carpet for the recipient of this cute creature. Hedgehog boot brush, £59.99, Chelsea Gardener



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4 CLEAR VISION This self-watering planter is ideal for someone who is forgetful about watering their plants, as it only needs attention once a month. Boskke Large Cube Planter, £44.95, Cow & Co **5 TIME FOR TEA** Unbreakable and inexpensive, an enamel mug is an excellent stocking filler. Gone Gardening mug, £5.99, Dobbies Garden Centres **6 HOUSE & GARDEN** A cute home specially for the birds... Just place it among favourite plants. Elho Corsica bird house planter, £15, John Lewis



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7 HAND CARE Protect hands from the risk of scrapes and scratches in the garden. Blooming Lovely gardening gloves, £14.50, Caroline Gardner **8 HANDS-FREE METHOD** Lazy gardeners can grow a mini kitchen garden the easy way – just open the can and add water. Microgiardini Plants in a Can, £15 for two: basil and mint or chili peppers and tomato, Rockett St George **9 RETRO EFFECT** Stylish tools will look fabulous for someone with a chic garden shed. Roots and Shoots watering can, £23.99, The Oak Room



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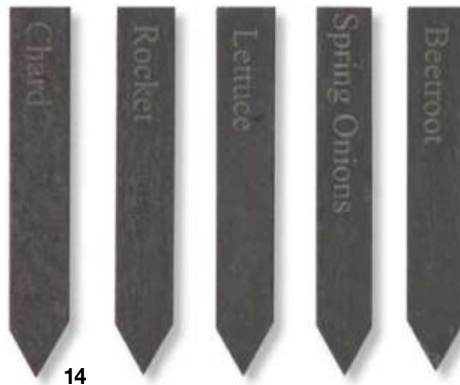


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10 A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING Hand tools are immediately at the ready with this colourful cover-up. Orla Kiely gardening apron, £29.95, Wild & Wolf **11 SPRAY TREATMENT** A quick spritz of water will refresh house plants in a centrally heated atmosphere. The Thoughtful Gardener Plant Mister, £12.95, Wild & Wolf **12 SEASONAL BLOOMS** Always a special gift, flowers really show your appreciation, and this arrangement beautifully combines traditional roses with South African Leucospermum. Global Textures, £34.99, from the House Beautiful collection at Flowers Direct



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13 COME INTO THE GARDEN If you know someone who likes visitors to their shed, this sign is perfect. Wilson & Bloom wooden garden sign, £6, Debenhams **14 MARK THE SPOT** Before the plants emerge, it's useful to have a little reminder of what good things are on their way. Set of six printed slate vegetable garden markers, £9.50, Garden Trading **15 GROUND WORK** This is a useful little kit for grow-your-own fans. Prizewinning vegetable growers kit, £14.99, Wyevalle Garden Centres



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16 SCALED DOWN Small-size tools are just right for window box gardening. Mini red pruner, £9.99; trowel, £9.99 and fork, £5.99, The Chelsea Gardener **17 GOOD MIXERS** A little something for cocktail fans to sow and grow – herbs that will add colour and flavour to favourite tipples. Cocktail Garden kit, £14.95, John Lewis **18 HANG UP** Dog lovers might like this sculptured hook – it's perfect on a back door for hanging an umbrella, waterproof jacket or the dog's lead. Whippet door hook, £18.50, Oka *Continued over page*



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19 HEAT SOURCE A cosy throw will keep someone warm when taking a break from winter gardening. Celtic rug in recycled wool, £25, The National Trust **20 VEG STORE** Fabric sacks keep home produce well-aired and away from the light. Canvas vegetable bag, £8, The Contemporary Home **21 GET GROWING** All the essentials in a jar to get new gardeners growing. Garden Sundries set containing twine, plant markers, seed collection packets and a pencil, £9.99, Wyevale Garden Centres

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22 HANDY HOLDALL This simple and chic canvas carrier keeps tools, twine and gloves together. Gardening bag, £15.99, The Chelsea Gardener **23 DOWN TO EARTH** Book lovers who want to eat what they grow will appreciate the good advice in this practical guide to seasonal edible planting. *The Vegetable Patch* by Isobel Carlson, £8.99, Summersdale **24 GET SORTED** An enamelled box with partitions makes it easy to organise potting shed accessories. Shed Tidy, £18.95, Annabel James

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25 SOFT TOUCH A two-step beauty treatment that will leave hardworking hands soft and smooth. Gardeners Mini 60 Second Fix Kit for Hands, £8, Crabtree & Evelyn **26 PRIME LOCATION** Made from recycled magazines and newspapers this Fairtrade bird house blends into the landscape. Bird House, £9.99, Oxfam **27 BEE B'N'B** A specially designed house will encourage solitary bee species into your garden to pollinate your flowers. Wudwerx two-tier bee hotel, £29.95, notonthehighstreet.com

ON THE SHELF

Those with a penchant for French styling will love this Provence plantstand in Dove Grey, £75, Cox & Cox. It folds away easily when not in use





PERFECT PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN

*Exciting ideas for toddlers to teens
to unwrap and enjoy*

FAVOURITE FRIENDS

Soft and cuddly characters
are perfect for younger
children. Spencer bear,
£18; Knitted soldier,
£20; Bobble cat, £12;
all Marks & Spencer



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1 ONE DIRECTION Cooler than the average nightlight, this red sign is a great wall decoration for teens. 'Fun This Way' illuminated canvas, from £54.95, The Letterroom **2 GIFT OF LEARNING** Buy a toy from the Sagoskatt collection and support Save the Children and UNICEF's Soft Toys for Education campaign to fund projects throughout the developing world. Bird soft toy, £7, Ikea **3 WHITE OUT** Let them shake this traditional novelty toy to create a lovely snow scene. Coca Cola snow globe, £6, Tesco

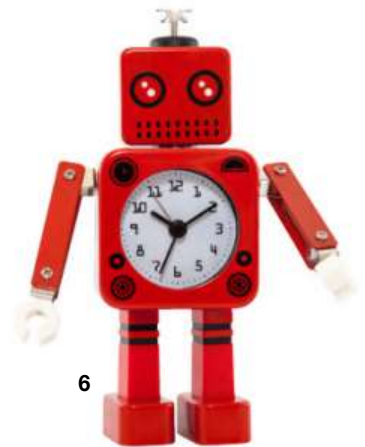
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4 ALL AGLOW Disney fans will love the friendly face of Winnie the Pooh lighting up their bedside table. It's easy and fun to carry round too. Philips LED light, £24.99, Amazon **5 WORD PLAY** Choose an initial letter or spell out a whole name in colourful cushions. Single letter cushion, £18 (30cm square), or £30 (42cm square), Swanky Maison **6 RUNNING LIKE CLOCKWORK** They'll never be late for school again with a robot to wake them up on time. Robot alarm clock, £15, Habitat

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7 SPECIAL ORDER Personalised gifts have touching significance that recipients will really appreciate. London bus cushion with chosen name, £34, Petiotes **8 HOME CINEMA** An effective but fairly low-tech way to project a movie onto a wall via a phone, the Smartphone projector, £15.95 from Handpicked Collection, allows cinema-style viewing at 8x magnification **9 START SEWING** Just the thing to spark a passion for dressmaking. Rose & Butler sewing machine, £60, Debenhams *Continued over page*



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10 HERO'S BREAKFAST Served in this ceramic bowl, any cereal – especially if it's porridge – becomes a superfood. Superman bowl, £7.96, Lakeland **11 NIGHT SKY** A clever gadget to introduce novice astrologers to the constellations. Stargazer's Stellarscope, £29.95, Handpicked Collection **12 HARD HAT** If you know someone who's getting a new set of wheels this Christmas, complete the look with a must-have safety helmet that's fun to wear. Micro Scooters 3D Scootersaurus safety helmet, £34.99, John Lewis



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13 HIGH FLYER Rock gently or soar high on a traditional garden swing hung from a tree. Up & Away swing, £95, The Oak & Rope Company **14 ANIMAL CRACKERS** Toothbrush holders in the shape of a dinosaur (above), giraffe or flamingo add a light-hearted touch to teeth cleaning. Animal toothbrush holder, £7.95, The Discovery Store **15 PECKING ORDER** Budding ornithologists will appreciate this kit to help them identify the rich variety of birds that inhabit the garden or countryside. Bird Watching Kit, £16.99, The Oak Room



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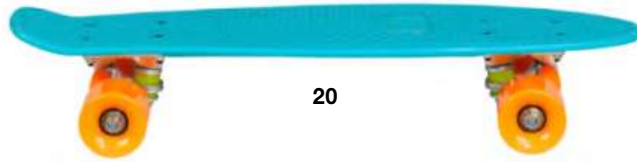


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16 GAME, SET AND MATCH Played indoors or out, table tennis is an Olympic sport that will keep youngsters fit. Table tennis set, £19, Tomic & Daly **17 DON'T STOP THE MUSIC** There's no need to turn off the tunes while getting ready to go out with this Spectrum DAB portable shower radio, £49.95, John Lewis **18 SMOOTH OPERATOR** Get these variable-heat tongs in pale and pretty colours for someone who's passionate about keeping their hair sleek and frizz-free. THX Total Hair Experts Pastel Collection straighteners, £18, Tesco



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19 FUN AND GAMES Jokes and quizzes are all part of family fun and a fantastic way to get everyone involved in the festive spirit. Teen Trivia, £3.99, Talking Tables **20 FREEWHEELING** On the move or perfecting clever tricks, skateboarding is a great solo sport that's a fun way to exercise outdoors. Skateboard, £39.95, Wild & Wolf **21 TRUE BLUE** A bright bag is easy to spot at school, at the swimming pool or on the baggage carousel. Baggu recycled cotton canvas backpack, £38, Yours Sustainably



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22 FOOD TO GO A zip-up bag with integral drinks container will let the children take their favourite healthy lunch to a galaxy far away – or school – and avoid the need for disposable bottles. Star Wars lunch bag, £10, Tesco **23 TAKE YOUR TIME** A first timepiece for young art lovers who enjoy the Katie books about the National Gallery collections. Katie watch, £23, The National Gallery **24 GAME ON** Hone your skills in time for next year's holidays with a scaled-down version of the French game of boules. Triplette pétanque, £13, Unique & Unity



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25 TEST THE TREND Fashionistas can flaunt their style credentials with this entertaining trump card game. Fashion Face Off game, £8.95, Rockett St George **26 ACTION HERO** If they've seen the film, this space adventurer toy is sure to fire their imagination. Miles From Tomorrowland figure, £20, Debenhams **27 BOBBLE TOP** In a mix of cheerful bright colours, this special gift in soft lambswool is a lovely winter warmer for two- to seven-year-olds. Ice Cream hat, £36, Donna Wilson *Continued over page*



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28 A PUZZLE TO SOLVE Hide some cash or a secret note inside this box and the recipient will have to crack the code to open it. Houdini magic money box, £4.95, Handpicked Collection **29 SEE THE SIGHTS** There's a chance to change the scenery every time with a 40+ piece wooden train set that includes London landmarks old and new. Wooden City of London train set, £49.99, London Transport Museum **30 NEW BEST FRIEND** A cute and cuddly soft toy is sure to be a firm favourite. Fuddlewuddle puppy, £17, The National Gallery



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31 PUDDLEPROOF Designed to keep feet dry on the wettest days. Kids' Crew wellies, £12.95, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) **32 KNOCK 'EM DOWN** Not only a great game for all the family, a set of skittles will make a lovely gift that will stand the test of time and mean there's no need to head down to the bowling alley. Hardwood skittles set, £48, Hen & Hammock **33 COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS** A chocolate treat for every day makes the waiting bearable. Advent calendar, £11.95, Carluccio's



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34 LETTER LINK Little ones will love slotting together these brilliant colourful and quirky characters that join up to create a caterpillar and make learning more enjoyable. Alphabet puzzle caterpillar, £21.99, Wyevale Garden Centres **35 RACE FOR A SPACE** This is perfect for helping children take a break from computer and phone screens and encouraging them to rediscover the good-old-fashioned satisfaction of traditional wooden puzzles. Car Parking game, £9.95, Muji

SETTING UP CAMP

What child wouldn't be delighted with this little home of their own where they can let their imagination run wild? White tipi with grey and white stars, £100, The Tipi





TERRIFIC TREATS FOR TECHIES

*Take your pick of these quirky ideas
for techies, music lovers, fitness
fanatics and more*



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OPPOSITE SMART SOUND Fitness fans can listen as they work out, even when swimming. Sony Waterproof All-in-One MP3 player, £59.96, Amazon
1 SLICK SLOT The remote control will always be easy to find in this brightly coloured container. Cozy remote control holder, £11.95, The Discovery Store
2 VINTAGE LOOK Retro styling belies the up-to-date technology in this portable speaker. Bongo Bluetooth speaker, £90, Such & Such
3 SUPER CHARGE Travellers will love a power pack to charge devices when away from a mains supply. Ventura Portable Power PB60, £40, Snooper



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4 SWITCHED ON Cyclists can fix these lights anywhere on their bike frames and take them off when the bike is parked. Magnetic bike lights, £30, Cow & Co
5 WORKING OUT This tracker provides an overall picture of fitness with a monitor that tracks levels of activity and sleep quality. Misfit Flash activity tracker, £29.99, Currys
6 HANDS FREE A brilliant stocking filler, this little stand will support a phone or tablet so the screen can be seen easily. Foldable tablet stand, £1.95, Pod



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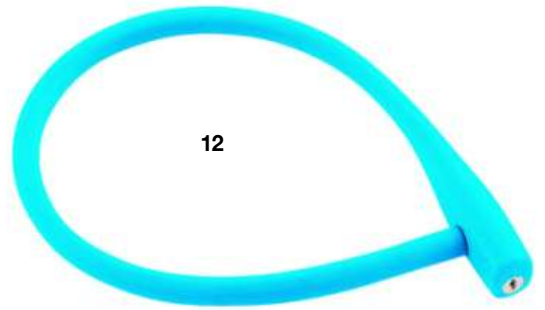
7 WASH AND GO Clean-cut friends will love the Humlan headphones as you can put the headband and ear cushions in the wash when they get grubby, £39, Urbanears
8 MULTI TASKING Everything needed to prepare cocktail ingredients is combined in this single handy utensil. Bar10der tool, £24.99, Pod
9 IN THE GROOVE Anyone with a good stash of vinyl can enjoy them at 45, 33 or 78rpm and listen through speakers or headphones on the GPO Stylo turntable, £39.95, Black by Design *Continued over page*



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10 NO CHARGE? Great as a stocking filler and small enough to be taken on trips out and about. Powerbank portable charger, £11.50, Pod **11 WELL-CONNECTED** Devices can be recharged in the car with the Carbot in-car USB splitter, £9.99, Rockett St George **12 SECURITY CONSCIOUS** Cycling friends will appreciate this silicone-covered bicycle chain that weighs just half a kilo. It won't scratch the frame and is a useful extra anti-theft device. Knog Kabana cable lock, £23.99, Halfords



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13 TAKING STEPS A wristband that tracks daily activity, calorie consumption and sleep quality will help in keeping on top of fitness goals. Fitbit Flex wristband, £64.99, Currys **14 PARROT FASHION** Wine lovers will find these bottle openers in fun colours great for parties, picnics and barbecues. Corkatoo corkscrew, £14.99 each, Rigby & Mac **15 TURN UP THE VOLUME** Music fans can go anywhere with these wireless speakers offering hours of playing time. Wow Bling Bluetooth speaker, £50, Science Museum Shop



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16 ROADSIDE RESCUE A first aid bike kit means never being stranded at the kerb. Gentlemen's Hardware bicycle repair kit, £15, Wild & Wolf **17 MORE AIR** A bicycle pump that's small enough to fit in a pocket is a bonus when travelling light. There's also a black option. JetBlack MX MTB Micro Pump, £22.99, Halfords **18 CASE STUDY** Personalise and protect a mobile phone to save it from scuffs and scratches. Phone covers are available in more than 200 designs, from £25.99, Indira Albert *Continued over next page*

JOY OF MUSIC Treat someone special to these funky Triple C headphones, £39.50; or opt for the amplifier, £10; retracting earbuds, £15; or Bluetooth speakers, £10. All Marks & Spencer





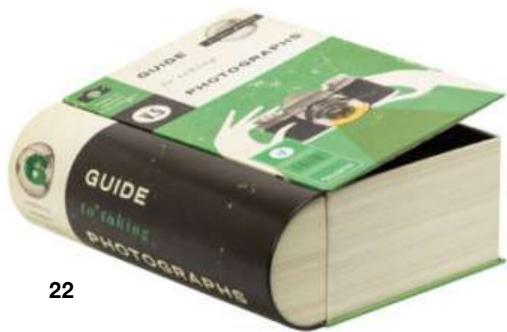
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19 STANDING ORDER Keep letters and photos neat and prop up tablets and mobile phone on the solid oak desk tidy, £74.95, Handpicked Collection **20 TOOL FOR THE JOB** Good design makes even the simplest implements easier to use. Noè Sommelier bottle opener, £35, Alessi **21 KEEP TOPPED UP** A refillable water bottle like this unusual flat design saves waste and is easy to fit in a briefcase or laptop bag. Memobottle, £21.99, The Fowndry



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22 BOXED IN Made in the form of a book, this retro-look storage solution will keep essential bits and bobs tidy. Photography Book tin, £20, Jay at Magpie **23 GREY MATTER** Designs with rugged good looks appeal to urbanistas as well as outdoor types. Nixon unisex watch, £49, John Lewis **24 NATURAL ASSET** Up to four phones and tablets can be charged in one neat unit made from sustainable materials, without the inevitable tangle of wires. Universal Expert by Sebastian Conran multi-dock charging platform, £45, John Lewis



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25 DAYS GONE BY With retro looks, this perpetual calender is a low-tech option. Calendar Block, £25, Habitat **26 TURNING OF THE SCREW** A short-handled hardwood screwdriver can be easier to manoeuvre in awkward spaces. Elemen'tary small No 2 screwdriver with six interchangeable bits, £21.95, Rigby & Mac **27 CARRY OUT COFFEE** This machine filters hot coffee straight into a thermal mug so caffeine fans can take their brew with them wherever they go. Coffee 2 Go, £49.99, Swan



WHERE TO BUY

Alessi 00 800 22 88 28 28;
alessi.co.uk

Alison Appleton 0151 709
1188; alisonappleton.com

Annabel James 0845 548
0210; annabeljames.co.uk

Backdoorshoes 01202
232357; backdoorshoes.co.uk

BHS 0344 411 6000;
bhs.co.uk

Bluebellgray 0141 221 0724;
bluebellgray.com

Contemporary Home (The)
0845 130 8229; tch.net

Carluccio's carluccios.com

Caroline Gardner 020 3010
1990; carolinegardner.com

Chelsea Gardener (The)
020 7352 5656;
chelseagardener.com

Cow & Co 0844 858 1581;
cowandco.co.uk

Cox & Cox 0844 858 0744;
coxandcox.co.uk

Creative Tops 01536 412322;
creative-tops.com

Crabtree & Evelyn
0800 1114 406;
crabtree-evelyn.co.uk

Currys 0344 561 0000;
currys.co.uk

Debenhams 0844 561 6161;
debenhams.com

Discovery Store (The)
020 3588 1050;
thediscoverystore.co.uk

Dobbies Garden Centres
0131 561 6406; dobbies.com

Donna Wilson 020 7749
0768; donnawilson.com

Dunelm 0345 165 6565;
dunelm-mill.co.uk

Emily Bond 0117 376 3067;
emilybond.co.uk

Falcon 020 7837 9749;
falconenamelware.com

Flowers Direct
flowersdirect.co.uk

Fowndry (The) 01295
267439; thefowndry.com

Garden Trading 0845 608
4448; gardentrading.co.uk



Habitat 0344 499 1111;
habitat.co.uk

Halfords 0345 504 5353;
halfords.com

Handpicked Collection
01206 226440;
handpickedcollection.com

Hen & Hammock
01844 217060;
henandhammock.co.uk

House of Fraser 0345 602
1073; houseoffraser.co.uk

Indira Albert 0795 854 4928
ialbert.co.uk

Ikea 020 3645 0000;
ikea.co.uk

John Lewis 0345 604 9049;
johnlewis.com

Jonathan Adler 020 7589
9563; uk.jonathanadler.com

Kenwood 0239 239 2333;
kenwoodworld.com/uk

Lakeland 01539 488100;
lakeland.co.uk

Laura Ashley 0333 200 8009;
lauraashley.com

Letteroom 01264 355488;
theletteroom.com

London Transport Museum
ltmuseumshop.co.uk

Lush Designs 020 8694
1664; lushlampshades.co.uk

Magpie 020 7095 9399;
magpieline.com

Make The Most Of 01244
940977; makethemostof.co.uk

Marks & Spencer 0333 014
8000; marksandspencer.com

Muji muji.co.uk

National Gallery (The)
020 7747 2870;
nationalgallery.co.uk

National Trust Shop
0845 074 4067;
shop.nationaltrust.org.uk

Next 0333 777 8000;
next.co.uk

**Oak and Rope
Company (The)**
theoakandropecompany.co.uk

Oak Room (The) 01707
257175; oakroomshop.co.uk

Oka 0844 815 7380;
okadirect.com

Oliver Bonas 020 8974 0110;
oliverbonas.com

Oxfam oxfam.org.uk

Petiotes petiotes.com

Philips 0800 331 6016;
philips.co.uk

Pod 0117 373 2564;
thepodcompany.co.uk

QVC 0800 514131;
qvcuk.com

Rigby & Mac 020 8761 1011;
rigbyandmac.com

Rockett St George 01444
253391; rockettstgeorge.co.uk

Rough Stuff 01923 267077;
roughstuffoak.co.uk

RNLI 0870 013 3999;
rnli.org.uk

Sainsbury's 0330 123 1962
or 0800 636262;
sainsburyshome.co.uk

**Science Museum
Shop** 01375 484567;
sciencemuseumshop.co.uk

SCP 020 7739 1869;
scp.co.uk

Snooper 01928 579579;
snooper.co.uk

Sony 020 7365 2413;
sony.co.uk

Sophie Conran
sophieconran.com

Such & Such 020 366 53452;
suchandsuch.co

Summersdale 01243 771107;
summersdale.com

Swan 0345 610 4118;
swan-brand.co.uk

Swanky Maison
swankymaison.com

Talking Tables 020 7627
6767; talkingtables.co.uk

Tesco Direct 0330 123 4050;
tesco.com/direct

Tomic & Daly 01227 273016;
tomicanddaly

Travelling Souk 020 8133
0728; thetravellingsouk.com

Unique & Unity 0845 605
9699; uniqueandunity.co.uk

Urbanears urbanears.com

Very 0844 822 2321; very.co.uk

West Elm 0800 404 9780;
westelm.co.uk

Wild & Wolf 01225 789909;
wildandwolf.com

Willow & Stone 01326
311388; willowandstone.co.uk

Wyevalle Garden Centres
0844 800 8082; wyevalle.co.uk

Yours Sustainably 01622
871038; yoursustainably.com

CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE



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